

Montana Aeronautics Board
Montana Department of Transportation; Auditorium
2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, MT
Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Aeronautics Board

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

Department of Transportation

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

Note – Robb Bergeson was unable to be present this day.

Guests

Craig Canfield, KLJ
Nathan Schroht, KLJ
Travis Eickman, Morrison-Maierle
Jim Greil, DOWL
Cory Kesler, Morrison-Maierle
Jared Wingo, FAA
Lance Bowser, Robert, Peccia & Associates

Scott Eaton, FAA
Lucas Locke, Valley County
Mathew Wilder, RPA
Rick Ryan, Butte Airport
Kevin Myhre, Century Co. Inc

Call to Order

- Chair Lepper called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Public Comment

10:00 a.m. the Chairman opened the session to public comments – No public comments.

Loan/Grant Allocations Summary

To summarize the decisions made for efficiency, the Board agreed to fund all federal high-priority projects with 85% grant, and large high-priority projects (total project costs exceeding \$500,000) at 73% grant. The Board granted high-priority non-federal projects at 98.5% and the only beacon and AWOS projects at 100%. The Board awarded a loan amount of 51% of the remaining sponsor share after grant was awarded for all high-priority projects. Level of priority is based on the FAA National Priority Index. Medium priority projects were awarded 50% of sponsor share in grant funds and 25% of remaining sponsor share in loan. The Board only awarded loans to airports who indicated in their applications that they would accept a loan, except Miles City because they stated they would not accept a loan of the amount that would have been awarded. The Board did not award funds for any low-priority projects.

- **Baker Airport**

- Construct/Improve/Repair Fuel Farm/Utilities – grant request was for \$22,800
 - First Pass – No comment
 - Second Pass – No comment
 - 0% granted.
- Install/Rehabilitate Airport Beacons – grant request is for \$16,000.
 - First Pass – Looks good the way it is.
 - Second Pass – No Comments
 - 100% of project cost Granted (\$16,000)
- **Big Sandy Airport**
 - Acquire Snow Removal Equipment – Requested a grant of \$29,000
 - First pass – No Comments for the SRE
 - Second Pass – No Comments for the SRE
 - \$24,650 Granted
 - Loan of \$2,219 approved.
 - Snow Removal Equipment Building – Requested \$60,000
 - First pass- No comments.
 - Second Pass – Mr. Smith mentions they are not funding buildings however they grant funds only for Snow Removal Equipment.
 - \$30,000 Granted.
 - Loan of \$7,500 approved.
- **Big Timber Airport**
 - Rehabilitate Apron – Requested a grant of \$47,150.
 - First Pass – No Comments
 - Second Pass – No Comments
 - \$23,575 Granted.
 - Expand Apron – Requested a grant of \$45,150.
 - First Pass - No comments
 - Second Pass – No Comments
 - \$22,575 Granted.
- **Bridger Airport**
 - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested a grant of \$20,250.
 - \$39,893 Granted.
 - Rehabilitate Taxiway – Requested a grant of \$15,125.
 - First Pass – Chair Lepper talked about giving them a 100% project cost in grant money. Wade made comments about the Airport and talked about granting the airport more than requesting since they only requested 50% of sponsor share.
 - Second Pass - Vice-Chair Cebulski wants to give more than requested because the applicant has put skin in the request. Vice-Chair Cebulski suggested 90% of total project. .985% of total sponsor share was awarded to be consistent with other non-federal awards.
 - \$29,796 Granted.
- **Broadus Airport**
 - Construct/Expand/Improve/Modify/Rehabilitate Building – Requested a grant of \$110,100.
 - First Pass – No comments
 - Second Pass – No Comments

- \$0 Granted because no awards for building hangars.
- Construct Terminal Building – Requested a grant of \$20,000.
 - First Pass – No comments
 - Second Pass – No Comments
- \$0 Granted because no awards for building terminals.
- **Butte Airport**
 - Rehabilitate Apron – Requested a grant of \$303,400.
 - First Pass – No comments
 - Second Pass – No comments
 - \$151,700 Granted.
- **Columbus Airport**
 - Construct/Expand/Improve/Modify/Rehabilitate Building – Requested a grant of \$70,366.
 - First pass – No Comment
 - Second pass – No comment
 - \$0 Granted because no awards for building hangars.
- **Conrad Airport**
 - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested a grant of \$240,000.
 - \$175,200 Granted
 - Loan of \$33,048
 - Rehabilitate Taxiway - Requested a grant of \$20,000
 - \$14,600 Granted
 - Loan of \$2,754
 - Rehabilitate Apron - Requested a grant of \$100,000.
 - \$73,000 Granted
 - Loan of \$13,770
 - Construct Taxiway - Requested a grant of \$15,000.
 - \$12,750 Granted
 - Loan of 1,148
 - Rehabilitate Runway Lighting/Electrical Vault - Requested a grant of \$43,000.
 - \$36,550 Granted
 - Loan of \$3,290
 - Acquire land/easement for approaches – Requested a grant of \$30,000.
 - \$15,000 Granted
 - Loan of \$3,750
 - Acquire Snow Removal Equipment - Requested a grant of \$26,500.
 - \$22,525 Granted
 - Loan of \$2,027
 - First Pass – No comments
 - Second Pass – Recommended large high priority items, the construction for taxiway, and rehabilitation for runway lighting. Zero for Land and SRE.
 - Third Pass – Recommended grant for SRE & Land.
- **Culbertson Airport**
 - Construct/Expand/Improve/Modify/Rehabilitate Building – Requested a grant of \$58,000.

- \$29,000 Granted
 - Construct Terminal Building – Requested a grant of \$25,000.
 - \$0 Granted because no awards for building terminals.
 - First pass – No comments
 - Second Pass- No money
- **Deer Lodge Airport**
 - Acquire Equipment – Requested a grant of \$10,000.
 - \$9,500 Granted
 - Loan of \$125.00
 - Expand Apron – Requested a grant of \$4,400.
 - \$2,200 Granted
 - Loan of \$550
 - Acquire land/easement for development/relocation – Requested a grant of \$4,000.
 - \$2,000 Granted
 - Loan of \$500
 - Acquire land/easement for approaches – Requested a grant of \$32,330.
 - \$16,165 Granted
 - Loan of \$4,041
 - Construct/extend/improve runway safety area - Requested a grant of \$34,334.
 - \$0 Granted because no awards for runway extensions.
 - Light/Mark/Remove Obstructions – Requested a grant of \$16,446.
 - \$13,979 Granted
 - Loan of \$1,258
 - First pass – No comment
 - Second pass – Recommended as presented.
- **Dillon Airport**
 - Rehabilitate Runway (Design) – Requested a grant of \$11,500.
 - \$8,395 Granted.
 - Loan of \$1,584
 - Rehabilitate Taxiway (Design) - Requested a grant of \$3,500.
 - \$2,555 Granted.
 - Loan of \$482
 - Rehabilitate Apron (Design) - Requested a grant of \$3,500.
 - \$2,555 Granted.
 - Loan of \$482
 - Rehabilitate Runway (Construction) - Requested a grant of \$653,000.
 - \$476,690 Granted.
 - Loan of \$89,918
 - Rehabilitate Taxiway (Construction) - Requested a grant of \$408,000.
 - \$297,840 Granted.
 - Loan of \$56,182
 - Construct of Taxiway – Requested grant of \$28,000.
 - \$23,800 Granted.

- Loan of \$2,142
 - Construct Apron – Requested a grant of \$44,500.
 - \$22,250 Granted.
 - Loan of \$5,563
 - Install Taxiway Lighting – Requested a grant of \$35,500.
 - \$0 Granted because no awards for taxiway lighting.
 - First pass – Rather large project
 - Second Pass – Vice-Chair Cebulski states that it is a large request that takes a lot of money out of the Aero Board. Recommendation is given them the large high priority and nothing else. Recommend funding the recommendations presented.
- **Ennis Airport**
 - Acquire Snow Removal Equipment – Request a grant of \$33,000.
 - \$28,050 Granted.
 - First pass – No comment
 - Second pass- Good
- **Eureka Airport**
 - Construct/Improve/Repair Fuel Farm/Utilities – Requested a grant of \$47,700.
 - \$0 Granted because no awards fuel farm installation.
 - First pass – No comment
 - Second Pass - Good
- **Fort Benton Airport**
 - Install AWOS – Requested a grant of \$38,500.
 - \$38,500 Granted
 - First pass – discussion about the camaras
 - Second pass - Mr. Robertson recommends offering the presented amount with no loan.
- **Glasgow Airport**
 - Rehabilitate Runway Lighting/Vault – Requested grant of \$35,300.
 - \$30,005 Granted
 - First pass – No comment
 - Second Pass - Good with what was presented.
- **Hamilton Airport**
 - Install Weather Cameras – Requested a grant of \$9,000.
 - \$8,550 Granted
 - First pass – No comment
 - Second Pass – Recommend amount presented.
- **Havre Airport**
 - Snow Removal Equipment Building – Requested a grant of \$15,000.
 - \$7,500 granted.
 - First pass – discussion about funding the snow removal building.
 - Second Pass – Recommended as presented.
- **Hardin Airport**
 - Acquire Snow Removal Equipment – Requested a grant of \$34,200.
 - \$29,070 Granted.
 - First pass – No comment

- Second Pass – Recommendation as presented.
- **Jordan Airport**
 - Conduct/Update Airport Master Plan Study- Requested a grant of \$4,000.
 - \$2,000 Granted.
 - First pass – Vice-Chair Cebulski asked why they withdrew their rehabilitation work but still wanted funds for a master plan. The price for rehab was withdrawn because the project was pushed from 2024 to 2026 and they will return and ask for funding at a later date.
 - Second Pass – Recommend as Presented.
- **Lincoln Airport**
 - Snow Removal Equipment Building – Requested a grant of \$72,500.
 - \$36,250 Granted
 - First pass – No comment
 - Second Pass – Board members recommend grant as presented.
- **Malta Airport**
 - Acquire Snow Removal Equipment – Requested a grant of \$34,500.
 - \$29,325 granted.
 - First pass – No comment
 - Second Pass – No Comment
- **Miles City Airport**
 - Construct/Expand/Improve/Modify/Rehabilitate Building (Design) – Requested \$114,000.
 - \$0 Granted because no awards for building hangars.
 - Construct/Expand/Improve/Modify/Rehabilitate Building (Construction) – Requested \$240,000.
 - \$0 Granted because no awards for building hangars.
 - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested \$10,500.
 - \$8,925 Granted.
 - Rehabilitate Taxiway – Requested \$3,500.
 - \$2,975 Granted.
 - Rehabilitate Apron – Requested \$14,000.
 - \$11,900 Granted.
 - First pass – No comment
 - Second pass – Recommend \$0 for the construction of new hangars and offering presented amounts.
 - Third Pass – Recommend removing the loans for Miles City because it is such a small amount the airport would not accept them.
- **Poplar Airport**
 - Rehabilitate Runway Lighting/Vault – Requested \$30,000
 - \$25,500 Granted
 - Loan of \$2,295 offered.
 - Install Runway Vertical/Visual Guidance System – Requested \$2,500
 - \$2,125 Granted
 - Loan of \$191 offered

- First Pass – Mr. Smith states he finds it odd that 13-year-old light system is considered old. It is probably one of the newest systems in Montana. Finds it odd that they would replace a 13yr old system and ask for a 100% of funds.
 - The main problem is that there are issues with the airport lighting system. They have tried and tried to trouble shoot the system and the manufacturer cannot figure out the issues with the system. The system is unreliable. Best fix is a new system. Owner is interested in upgrading to LED, Getting the PAPI system running. Connectivity test will be conducted while the new system is implemented.
 - Mr. Smith suggests paying for the engineering first to see if they can find the issue on the old system to see if they could find a fix on the old system without replacing the entire system.
- Second Pass - Recommendation to fund the project as presented to replace the system
- **Scobey Airport**
 - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested \$3,440
 - \$2,924 Granted
 - Rehabilitate Taxiway – Requested \$17,820
 - \$17,820 Granted
 - Rehabilitate Apron – Requested \$3,740
 - \$3,179 Granted
 - First pass – No comment
 - Second pass – Recommendation as presented.
- **Shelby Airport**
 - Acquire Equipment – Requested \$26,550
 - \$13,275 Granted.
 - First pass – No comment
 - Second pass – Recommendation as presented.
- **Sidney Airport**
 - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested \$480,000
 - \$350,400 Granted
 - Loan of \$66,096 Offered.
 - Rehabilitate Runway Lighting/Electrical Vault – Requested \$20,000
 - \$14,600 Granted
 - Loan of \$2,754 Offered
 - First pass – No comment
 - Second pass – Recommendation as presented.
- **Stevensville Airport**
 - Conduct/Update Airport Master Plan Study- Requested \$34,000
 - \$17,000 Granted
 - First pass – No comment
 - Second pass – Recommendation as presented.
- **Superior Airport**
 - Construct/Expand/Improve/Modify/Rehabilitate Building – Requested \$80,000
 - \$0 Granted because no awards for building hangars.

- First pass – No comment
- Second pass - Zero
- **Three Forks Airport**
 - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested \$23,017
 - \$16,803 Granted
 - Loan of \$3,170 offered.
 - Rehabilitate Taxiway – Requested \$41,756
 - \$30,482 Granted
 - Loan of \$5,750 offered.
 - Rehabilitate Apron – Requested \$8,530
 - \$6,227 Granted
 - Loan of \$1,175 offered.
 - Extend Taxiway – Requested \$110,597
 - \$80,736 Granted.
 - Loan of \$15,229 offered.
 - Construct Taxiway – Requested \$16,667
 - \$14,167 Granted
 - Loan of \$1,275 offered.
 - First pass – Mr. Smith wants to clarify if the project has been bid not contracted.
 - This request is for a differential for the increase cost in construction prices as inflation.
 - Second Pass – Recommendation as presented.
- **Twin Bridges Airport**
 - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested \$16,000
 - \$13,600 Granted
 - Rehabilitate Taxiway – Requested \$6,000
 - \$5,100 Granted
 - Rehabilitate Apron – Requested \$4,000
 - \$3,400 Granted
 - First pass – No comment
 - Second pass – Recommendation as presented.
- **White Sulphur Springs Airport**
 - Light/Mark/Remove Obstructions – Requested \$90,000
 - \$65,700 Granted
 - Loan of \$12,393 offered.
 - First pass – No comment
 - Second pass – Recommendation as presented.

Mr. Robertson made a motion to accept the grant and loans as presented. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Pam Chamberlain went on record to abstain from the vote.

Mr. Robertson amended his motion to approve the loan and grant awards as presented with the exception of Butte. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

January 18, 2023

Mr. Robertson made a motion to accept the budget for the Butte distribution as presented. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Ms. Chamberlin abstained from the vote for Butte awards. The remaining quorum of six Board members voted unanimously to pass.

Ms. Chamberlin made motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Robertson? seconded the motion.

Review of Loan/Grant Applications

- **Loan Rate** - The loan rate for the fiscal year 2024 is 3.75% which is half of the prime rate of 7.5% as of 1/1/23.

Next Meetings

- The next meetings are TBD to include the June extension meeting and the next January loan and grant Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.