

**MONTANA AERONAUTICS BOARD
IN PERSON MEETING
June 27, 2023**

Aeronautics Board

Bill Lepper, Board Chair
Robb Bergeson
Wade Cebulski
Pam Chamberlain
Matthew Prinkki
Tim Robertson
Greg Smith

Department of Transportation

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

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Wade Cebulski called meeting to order at 11:00 am
Roll call to establish a quorum; seven board members present.

Pam Chamberlain made a motion to approve the January minutes as presented. Bill Lepper seconded the motion.

There was discussion after the motion: Robb Bergeson asked if the minutes reflect his absence the second day of the January Meeting. Matt Prinkki observed an error in the placement of a decimal point in a loan and grant award factor.

Pam Chamberlain made a motion to adjust the nonfederal award factor and approve the January minutes as amended. Robb Bergeson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Wade Cebulski asked for public comment, which there was none.

FY23 Grant/Loan Extensions –

Deer Lodge requested an extension for a \$21,150 grant to Construct/Improve Runway Safety Area. Discussion regarding the causes of project delay including FAA funding mechanisms and timing. Discussion on the length of extensions, with the standard being one year.

Pam Chamberlain made a motion to grant the extension for one year. Bill Lepper seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Dutton requested an extension for a \$88,200 grant to Rehabilitate and Construct Taxiway. Fairfield requested an extension for a \$78,060 grant to Rehabilitate Runway. Fairfield and Dutton are both under the purview of the Teton County Airport authority and sharing similar reasons for requesting an extension, submitted their request via the same

letter. Discussion on stipulating a deadline. Question to legal if the Board can make such a stipulation. Legal responded in the affirmative.

Greg Smith made a motion to grant an extension to Dutton and Fairfield respectively, with the stipulation the projects are substantially complete by November 30th, 2023. Robb Bergeson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Kalispell City requested an extension for a \$394,187 grant to install runway lighting. Discussion on the airport's difficulty completing the project including finding engineering firms.

Tim Robertson made a motion to grant the extension for one year. Pam Chamberlain seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Aeronautics Update - Tim Conway, Aeronautics Division Administrator

- New Aviation Project Coordinator in place: Barbara Barnum.
- MDT has several significant retirements and new incoming division administrators.
- Report of loan and grant fund financials, suggestion of future consideration of changes to how cash is retained in the loan fund.
- Audit updates: Glendive and Hot springs and Fly Big Sky.
- Replacement software for Aero Suite is moving forward.
- Airport and Airways Bureau and Safety and Education Bureau updates, Yellowstone Airport broke ground on Terminal construction scheduled for 2025 completion, Dell Airport sale waiting for approval from Governor, Browning Fence project moving forward with less expensive option, 5010 airport inspections underway, Aeronautics newsletter length has been reduced, ACE academy complete.
- Essential air service for Eastern Montana is moving through bid process.
- FAA reauthorization update.
- Ft Peck letter from previous Board discussion will be resent.
- GA appreciation month designated in Montana as August.

Schedule Next Meeting

The Annual Grant and Loan Award meeting is scheduled for January 17-18, 2024 in Helena. The meeting will begin at 1:00 on the 17th and 8:00 a.m. on the 18th.

Board Chair, Bill Lepper, expresses gratitude and thanks to Wade Cebulski for conducting this meeting, and to Tim Sheehy, upon his resignation from the Board, for his work and service to the Board.

Robb Bergeson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Lepper seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:16 pm