



# Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Airport - Bowman Field

## Airport Advisory Board

Wednesday, August 30th, 2023

**Meeting called by** Carlye Hansen,  
Planning Secretary

**Type of meeting** Monthly Meeting

**Minutes taken by** Carlye Hansen

**Members Present:** Andrew Heppe; Dan Klima  
(via telephone); Laura Mancevich

**Members Absent:** Eric Cortright, Vice-  
Chairman; Randy Johnson

**Staff:** Carlye Hansen, Planning Department  
Secretary; Mike Beausoleil, Commission  
Representative; Monte Belgarde, Airport  
Manager; Greg Bahr, ADLC Staff

**Staff Absent:** None

**Guests:** None

### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 am

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 JULY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 (no quorum)

Motion made by Andrew Heppe to accept the minutes from June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023;  
seconded by Laura Mancevich. Motion passes 3-0.

### NOMINATION AND VOTE FOR VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR 2023

Motion was made by Laura Mancevich to postpone the nomination and vote  
for vice-chair until January of 2024, as there are only three remaining meetings  
left for the year, at which time, we will vote for chairperson and vice-Chair for  
the year 2024; seconded by Andrew Heppe. Motion passes 3-0

### MANAGER'S REPORT

Monte Belgarde, Airport Manager gave his report today. He said that air activity at the airport is on  
par for this time of the year with general aviation and the jets for the Ranch on Rock Creek.  
Operations are up, largely in part of the Fly-In last Saturday, in which Andrew gave 41 airplane  
rides to folks who wanted to take a ride that day.



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Monte did ask Greg about the aircraft inventory that is needed for the FAA. He needs to come up with 10 airplanes based out of Bowman Field. Currently he has six, but Greg commented that there are other airplanes that are registered in the county, although not stored at Bowman Field. They will look at this list and adjust as needed.

Currently, the photosensor that operates the beacon is acting up. Monte has ordered a new photosensor, but right now they are on backorder, so the beacon is on at odd times, and he just wanted to note the reason behind it.

Monte noted that there was a power outage last month that lasted for about four hours. Currently the weather station used at the airport is in the shop at AtaData, in Butte. The DigiWx program that we currently have is only compatible with Windows 7, and obviously that is extremely outdated. Currently, we are looking at perhaps an expensive fix, starting at roughly \$700 to last us another 7 to 8 months until the new AWOS system is installed.

Motion was made by Andrew Heppe to approve the repair of the weather station at roughly \$700. If this happens to become exceedingly more, then Monte should check with Carl Hamming, Planning Director, or Bill Everett, CEO; seconded by Laura Mancevich. Motion passes 3-0

### CONSULTANT'S REPORT

Greg Bahr reviewed the Consultant Report sent over by RPA. Neither engineer was able to come to Anaconda this morning for the meeting, so Greg went over this in detail and there was some discussion on several items, but overall, this was just a review. **Please see attachment.**

### OLD BUSINESS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Review and Discussion Regarding the 2023 Fly-In and Car Show Held on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Greg noted that he was extremely happy with the outcome of the Fly-In and Car Show last weekend. He stated that we could have used a few more planes, but overall, it was a great day, and he estimates around 125 folks attended. We all would like to thank Andrew Heppe for his donation of his time and gas, to the event, as he gave 41 airplane rides to residents and children from the area. It was determined that next year, we would focus more on advertising, better word of mouth, etc., and we are going to start the process much earlier in the year to continue to improve the numbers and to get more airplanes to attend.

There was an issue with some theft during the Fly-In. There is a money container in the refrigerator that folks pay into when they buy snacks, juices, waters, sodas, etc. from the refrigerator in the lounge. Monte stated that there was roughly \$30 in this container, however, he never gave it much thought, but that money was taken during the Fly-In. It was decided that next year the refrigerator would be emptied, and the money would be put away to avoid this sort of thing in the future. It was also discussed that there is absolutely no need for anyone to be in Monte's office, other than Monte during the Fly-In/Car Show event. There were several small issues that came up due to this and at this time, the office will remain locked during any future events at the airport.

Laura asked if we would be sending out thank-you notes to the businesses that donated gifts and Carlye will get these out. Along with the West Valley Volunteer Fire Department and the lemonade folks, as well as a few others, there would be roughly 10 thank you notes to be sent out.

### MISCELLANEOUS



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Andrew just wanted to say that he felt obligated to say that he had a conversation with Gene Hughes from Butte Aviation last week. Mr. Hughes stated that he has a full truck with a 300-gallon tank if we were interested in having this be used for fuel. Andrew did state to him that we are working on a fuel farm, but also stated that he would pass this information on. Andrew states that we really need to get going on looking to acquire a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor to keep the tanks in the fuel farm filled. He feels that this should be done sooner than later as it makes no sense to have a fuel farm without fuel to put in it.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Laura Mancevich to adjourn; seconded by Andrew Heppe. Motion passed 3-0. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlye Hansen  
Planning Department Secretary

Approved: September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023