



Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Airport – Bowman Field

Airport Advisory Board

Wednesday September 29th, 2021 @ 7 a.m.

Meeting called by Jim Jonas, Chairperson

Type of meeting Monthly Meeting

Minutes taken by Carlye Hansen

Members Present: Jim Jonas, Chairperson; John Lombardi; Eric Cortright; Randy Johnson

Members Absent: Tim Casey (excused)

Staff: Carl Hamming, Planning Director; Carlye Hansen, Planning Department Secretary; Terry Vermeire, Commission Representative; Monte Belgarde, Airport Manager

AGENDA TOPICS

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 a.m., by Jim Jonas, Chairperson.

Approval of Minutes

A. Wednesday, August 25th, 2021

Motion was made by John Lombardi to approve the minutes from August 25th, 2021; seconded by Randy Johnson. Motion passes 4-0.

Manager's Report / Flight School Report – Monte Belgarde, Airport Manager

Monte Belgarde, Airport Manager, reported that right now with the apron reconstruction, flight traffic is significantly reduced. He states that there were 10 actual flights in and/or out during the construction time, accessing the runways. He is hoping that once the job is complete, things will pick up, but probably looking more at springtime to see things really move forward. At this time, he wanted to thank the Bert Mooney Airport as he has had to move his plane to Butte and has been doing his training out of there.

He reported that at this time, he has started up the plow and has decided to have it gone over and tuned up with the shop for ADLC.



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Also, at this time, there is a possibility that Bowman Field may be able to purchase a fire truck for a nominal fee to have on site. He states that there is one available and it is an amazing deal that he is currently being offered. There would need to be some decisions regarding who would be able to handle this and perhaps requirements as far as an EMT individual. He would like to have someone on this that is trained in fire and rescue. This is something that will be investigated by him, and he will talk to Opportunity Volunteer Fire Department as well as Lost Creek Volunteer Fire Department regarding Fire Response Training.

Mr. Belgarde has expressed interest in obtaining lights for the runway that come on with infrared sensors. These should save on electricity as well as the life of the lights themselves. Right now, we are paying \$22 per light bulb. This is something that would have to be done through a certified electrician and there would need to be a check-in with the FAA regarding this.

Mr. Belgarde also wanted to discuss an interest from several entities regarding hangar space. Incidentally, he also is looking to build another hangar for himself and his business, Angle of Attack Aeronautics. The total cost for the hangar that he is looking at constructing comes in at \$170K. He states that right now hangars are out seven months due to the current steel unavailability. He is concerned as with the flooding, and certain spots regarding soil, there is no real ideal spot to construct hangars and there is a lot to this with moving forward. Eric Cortright asked whether there is a disclaimer, or whether there should be a disclaimer in the hangar release agreements regarding flooding and frost depth issues for the individual hangars. There was apparently some sort of a Master Plan that was done several years ago, and we are going to try and obtain this. There is a lot map that is in the Planning Department as well as several maps from Morrison-Maeirle that may answer some of the questions that the Board and Staff are asking. At this point in time, there are several options available, and the County is going to investigate what it would take for more leases to happen and for more hangars to be built. He states that the availability of more hangars means more business to Bowman Field and to ADLC.

Mr. Belgarde discussed that there will be Page-2 General Flight SIM that will be available next month. This will give an instrument approach for both runways. Right now, this is 80% complete. This should increase interest in Bowman Field and will increase the visibility to get into the airport. He is hoping that this will bring more business to Anaconda.



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At this time, Mr. Belgarde wanted to give a huge kudos and thank you to everyone who made the apron project happen, as well as in a very efficient manner. We wanted to list the following folks:

1. Jim Greil and the staff at DOWL
2. Sarah Jones and Deluxe Engineering
3. R&S Johnson Construction
4. Gilman Construction
5. Wayne Wendt, ADLC Road Foreman

Again, a huge thank-you to all involved.

Consultant Report – Jim Greil, CM, Aviation Project Manager, DOWL

Mr. Jim Greil, CM, Aviation Project Manager from DOWL, called into the meeting this morning. He presented his project report as well as the CIP/NPE Narrative Description that will be due on this coming Friday, October 1st, 2021. *(Please see attached reports)*

Regarding the ALP (Airport Layout Plan), his understanding is that this was done about four years ago and that in 2023, there will be a Master Plan update needed. He stated that this plan could be done in 2022, but that Scott Eaton from the FAA would have to make that amendment. Carl asked how long it would take to do this and Mr. Greil stated that you could probably get this amended during fall/winter of 2021. Mr. Cortright stated that we need to move this Master Plan along sooner than later.

Motion is made by Randy Johnson to approve the CIP with the stipulation that the Master Plan generation is completed in 2022 rather than 2023; seconded by Eric Cortright. Motion passes 4-0.

Mr. Belgarde will sign the CIP and move this along by Friday, October 1st, 2021

Mr. Greil wanted to share with everyone an email that he received from the FAA regarding the National Based Aircraft Inventory Program (NBAIP) Review and Review/Update. What this is stating is that if an airport does not report at least 10-based aircraft, this would likely render the airport in question ineligible for all future FAA project funding. This is something that would ruin the Bowman Airport, but Monte is working on getting hold of folks who should be registered within this area with us and hopefully we will be able to come up with the 10 aircraft required. *(Please see attached email)*



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Regarding the fire engine that Mr. Belgarde discussed earlier, he states that this would likely be eligible for Covid Relief Funds as would be the infrared lighting that he would also like to get for the airport.

John Lombardi asked if we have had any further interest regarding a fuel farm being constructed at the airport. Right now, this would need to be a private entity as the County does not want to be involved in this undertaking. This would take a private entity and at this time, there is no interest from anyone.

New Business

Mr. Belgarde wanted to advise everyone that the FAA District Meeting will be happening on October 19th and October 20th, in Great Falls, and he is urging anyone who wants to attend to please do so. It is also noted that Mr. Belgarde is a voting member in the Montana Airport Manager's Association (MAMA)

Mr. Belgarde wanted to bring up one point before the conclusion of today's meeting. He stated that if it was not for Randy Johnson, of the Board, and an aircraft and hangar owner at Bowman Field, he would be stuck often. He states that Randy is at the airport more than sometimes Mr. Belgarde is, and he notes that Mr. Johnson participates in a lot of the behind-the-scenes activities in the operation of the airport. He has asked Bill Everett, CEO, about getting Mr. Johnson some sort of compensation for his time or making him an assistant airport manager, but Mr. Everett was not inclined to do this.

Mr. Belgarde asked the Board today for a discussion whether we could absorb his yearly hangar fee in compensation for all the work that he has done. The Board seemed to agree. Terry Vermeire, the Airport Representative from the Commission asked that this be put on the next airport agenda so a formal vote could be obtained for this. Carlye Hansen, Planning Board Secretary will put this on the next agenda.

Miscellaneous / Public Comment

None

Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, October 27th, 2021



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Adjournment

*Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Eric Cortright; seconded by Randy Johnson.
Motion passes 4-0.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Carlye Hansen

Carlye Hansen, Planning Department Secretary

Approved 10/27/2021