



GRANT COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 14th, 2021

Present

Bob Bagett
Robert Watt
Cheryl Berry
Barb Temple
Haley Walker

Absent

Doug Ferguson
Scott Myers

Visitors

Anthony Hernandez (USFS)

Robert Watt called the meeting to order at 6:31pm and thanked Bob Bagett for leading the last meeting.

Minutes

MSP – Bob Bagett/Cheryl Berry – to approve the corrected May 2021 meeting minutes. Unanimous.

Public Comment/Guests

1. USFS Update. Anthony Hernandez

Anthony gave an update for the USFS. He stated the crew is on and they have already seen some fires in the Joseph Canyon area and one right now near Bone Canyon. There are helicopters in Wyoming and Utah and crews spread all over which keeps them busy with staffing scheduling. Other than that things are going well. Robert asked Anthony about the fire condition predictions this summer. Anthony said the recent prescribed fire he was on a few weeks ago burned better and hotter than he anticipated, so if things continue like that he would guess we will have a severe fire season.

2. ODF Update.

Haley invited Taylor, but he was unable to make the meeting. He sent an email update which Haley shared with the commission. ODF has 4AS helitack helicopter is on early for the dry conditions and there have been no other requests for ODF aviation to start early at this time. ODF is still waiting to hear back from the FAA on operating helicopters next to the warehouse in the Industrial Park. Taylor invited the airport commissioners to contact him with any concerns, and he would be happy to answer questions and take feedback from their thoughts on operating out of the warehouse location. Robert asked who gives permission for the ODF helicopter to operate out of the warehouse location. Haley stated ODF submitted the proper form to the FAA to establish a new departure surface. Taylor is working with the FAA to get this approval. Haley added ODF still has to go through the City of John Day Planning Department and she doesn't know where that stands. The last Haley heard was the City of John Day has not received a complete application for this. Once the City receives a complete application the airport will be notified for comment. Cheryl asked if we should be thinking about a comment ahead of time and what is our responsibility as far as input. Haley said she would think the airport commission would have some sort of comment either in support or not in support of that departure surface location. It is unknown at this time what their operational procedures are including their flight pattern and overall safety procedures to ensure overall safety of aviation. Haley doesn't know the

answer to these because she hasn't seen the application. Haley added that if the FAA does not approve the new departure surface then it wouldn't get to the City of John Day Planning department for our comment. Robert asked if they plan on dispensing fuel at the warehouse location. Haley stated they have a fuel truck, so she suspects they will dispense fuel from that location. She added they are more than welcome to fuel at our airport but they do not have the ability to have an account with our airport due to past payment issues.

3. Environmental Assessment Project Update.

Haley provided an update and stated the cultural resources survey is beginning this week. They will be onsite at the airport and on private property where they have been given permission to do the survey. They will be digging and looking for historical artifacts, etc. We have permission from all property owners with the exception of Ryan Falk and the Reimers. The Reimers stated they are not allowed on their property. The portion of the Reimers property that is in the safety area we are concerned with in the EA project is 0.3 acres, so this is not a significant amount of land. Ryan Falk has not given permission because he would like to know what the airport stance is on our future plans with this property. Haley stated the airport doesn't necessarily have a stance at this moment because based on the airport master plan our "plan" is essentially to either acquire the property in the safety area or acquire an avigation easement so we have control over the property in the safety area. We do not plan to purchase the entire property, because it is a small portion of his property that is a safety area not the entire property.

Kevin's communication with Haley also mentioned that the county needs to be thinking about the grant match for the runway 17/35 widening project. Haley added that securing the match funds is going to be tough, but she receives emails from ODOT, Business Oregon, and others that provide grant opportunities. She continues to review these for our eligibility for the grant match. Haley knows the county is not in a position to have the cash for airport development. She stated we will continue seeking opportunities for this match, but she knows this is going to be a struggle unless something new comes along.

Financial activity report for May

There were no questions or comments on the May financial report.

Manager's Report

1. Fuel sales volumes for March, April, & May. Fuel sales volumes for May 2012- 2021.
The fuel report was included in the meeting documents. We sold 1,005.6 gallons of 100LL and 891.0 gallons of Jet A. Year to date we have sold 4,225.8 gallons of 100LL and 2,132.0 gallons of Jet A, and both are above average. Haley stated many of the other airports are increasing their fuel prices.
2. Fuel resale and replacement values.
Haley stated 100LL and Jet A fuel prices remain at \$4.99/gallon for 100LL and \$3.89/gallon for Jet A. In our 100 mile radius the average price for 100LL is \$4.69/gallon and Jet A is \$3.95/gallon. Our fuel costs continue to increase, and 100LL cost is \$4.52/gallon with a \$0.47 markup and \$2.55/gallon for Jet A with a \$1.14 markup. We have about 9,300 gallons of 100LL and 7,100 gallons of Jet A in the tanks.
3. Classroom and office events/activities.
Items noted are not including the regular Airport Commission meetings, Air Search, and the USFS. For the month of May the USFS used the conference room for training and we had one event other than the USFS which was a Firewise meeting which had a fee waiver. We have seven total events and more USFS training scheduled for the month of June. All seven events are non-paying which are continued training for Grant County SAR, Victims Assistance, EOCA, and the Sheriff's Department training with additional LEO training.
4. Airport Maintenance Update.
 - Tractor. We replaced the starter and the alternator on the tractor, and it is working great now. We are making good mowing progress on the south-end of the airfield in preparation for fire aviation helicopters. Haley reminded the airport commission the mowing is slow because we want to cut the weeds and not just push them over. Haley added that Grant Soil & Conservation was here today spraying along all taxiways, runways, hangars, helipads, and near the rappel tower and boiler.

- Fuel island leak and repairs. Robert asked if the hose has been replaced and if there is still a leak. Haley stated the parts have been ordered through Diversified Systems Inc. out of Boise. Once they receive the parts they will schedule a site visit for the installation of a new 100LL hose, spring retractable reel, braided hose, grounding cable, and repair the leaks.
- Cooling Tower. Haley noticed the heat pumps were blowing warm air, so she spent a couple days troubleshooting over the phone with our technician in Boise. The problem identified was that one of the fans on the cooling tower was not turning on. Haley explained that when the fans don't turn on the water doesn't cool down to go through the loops pumps to allow cold air to blow through the heat pumps. The fan reset switch was not working, so she made some adjustments to this switch to enable the fan to operate temporarily. She stated a bearing is going out of one of the fans, so a bearing kit and reset switch have been ordered. Once received our technician will visit for installation.

Old Business

Bob Bagett asked about the perimeter fence repair project. Haley stated she has been in contact with Brad Armstrong about this project, but he has yet to begin work. There was discussion about Brad's commitment to a two-week start once he was awarded this project, and this being a major factor in the decision to award him the project. Robert suggested a timeframe for him to start because pretty soon it will be a fire hazard for him to be working on this project. The airport commission would like to see work begin no later than the week of June 28th. The airport commission feels he has failed to fulfill his obligation to the project and agreed upon start date/timeframe. Haley will contact Brad and let him know about our discussion and deadline for beginning the project. Robert said one more consideration is the price of material increasing and perhaps this could be a reason for him not starting the project. The airport commission would like Haley to discuss this with Brad and have him give a valid reason for not starting the project. There is concern that if we move on to another contractor the price for the project could increase due to the prices increasing.

New Business

Haley re-introduced the Fly-In and Breakfast and asked the airport commissioners what date the Fly-In and Breakfast would be scheduled so she can ensure proper scheduling for airport staff. The date identified was Saturday, September 11th which is the first Saturday after Labor Day as usual. One of the questions of the commission was if the pilots feel comfortable in the enclosed space of the airplanes. Haley asked if this topic can be introduced at their next Air Search meeting in July to determine if there would be adequate pilots. There was additional discussion of having special events since this date is Patriot Day. Cheryl suggested seeing if there are any military flyovers that day that could also fly over our airport.

1. Haley's Corner.

Haley stated she has a vacation planned beginning next week.

Haley also added Ellie Justice has been offered and accepted our summer intern position. She will begin July 1st and will be available for the month of July and August. Haley explained that during the month of September we will continue to operate 7am-7pm with the exception of Sundays when we will operate 7am-3pm.

- Airport hours of operation. The airport continues operating our non-peak hours of 8am-4pm Sunday – Saturday. July 1st we will begin 7am-7pm operating hours Sunday-Saturday. The airport was closed Monday, May 31st in observance of Memorial Day. There are no scheduled closures during the month of June.
- Completed details list, ongoing projects/tasks - see synopsis. Haley stated the airport staff is focusing on airfield mowing, weeding around the hangars, and continuing to keep an eye on the cooling in the terminal.
- Schedule. Haley stated she does not have any changes to her schedule.

Haley introduced a document she drafted for a process for folks that want to rent, build, or purchase a hanger. Currently our process is a verbal explanation of what needs to take place. She asked the airport commissioners to read this document at their leisure and she would like to hear feedback so she can make this official and post to our website. One item noted is that the spelling of hangar needs to be consistent. Barb asked if we've heard any more on Ron Lundbom's hangar sale and current occupant. Haley hasn't heard any

more on this but will reach out to Ron. Cheryl asked if Haley has contacted Larry Lassen about his t-hangar and the condition of the pad for his hangar. Haley will reach out to Larry including reviewing the hangar lease agreement for maintenance requirements of the hangar and the boundary including the juniper needing cut so we don't create bird problems. Barb mentioned a juniper growing next to the CO Fire hangar as well that needs removed.

Haley stated she will be out of town for the regular August 9th meeting and asked if the airport commission would like to move the date. The airport commission rescheduled the airport commission meeting to August 16th.

2. Commissioners miscellaneous.

Robert asked if we had any fallback on the 4th Street repair discussion from the last meeting. Haley stated there was disappointment that the airport commission did not see the perceived value of having 4th Street with understanding that the airport commission doesn't want to get involved in telling the county how to spend their money.

Barb mentioned there is a recall on Scott Myers but she hasn't read much detail.

Adjournment

MSP – Barb Temple/Bob Bagett – to adjourn the meeting at 7:11pm. Unanimous.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 12th, 2021 at 6:30pm.

******* Please note the airport commission minutes are a summary of the airport commission meetings. Additional information related to airport commission meetings is available, after approval of the minutes, by contacting Haley Walker at 541-575-1151 or walkerh@grantcounty-or.gov *******