

Minutes of Meeting
Airport & Airport Advisory Board Update
August 24, 2020
9:00 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Airport Director Steven Kjergaard, BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Airport Advisory Board Chair Joan Genter, and Kootenai County Residents Murdo Cameron, Jim Walsh and David Moxley.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion) :**

Proposed Taxiway Nomenclature

Airport Director Steven Kjergaard explained that the Airport's taxiway names did not follow the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) naming conventions. He stated that they were working on a compromise to make the minimum changes that would be acceptable to the FAA. He said since they did not have a tower to offer additional information to aircraft and the taxiway names had been in use for many years, they did not want to confuse pilots. He noted that the proposed changes would be discussed with pilot groups before implementation.

Runway Hold Area

Mr. Kjergaard stated that the Airport's current holding area would be eliminated as part of the Decoupling Project. He commented that the holding area provided temporary parking for aircraft that were experiencing delays. He said they were looking at alternative spots for a new holding area.

Airport Advisory Board Minutes

Mr. Kjergaard reviewed the preparations for a grand opening next year in May or June being made by their new FBO (Fixed Based Operator), Stancraft. He reported that the company had hired a President for both its aviation and marine divisions, Corey Mendenhall. He added they have estimated that their 30,000 square foot hangar should be completed in a month and they plan to open in early November of this year.

Mr. Kjergaard confirmed that the design for the Runway Decoupling Project had begun. He estimated that total cost of the project would be between three and six million dollars, of which the County would be responsible for 5% if the State contributed the normal amount. He said the design should be done sometime early in 2021. He commented that

the runways were being decoupled because the FAA viewed their current configuration to be unsafe.

In response to a question from Commissioner Duncan, Mr. Kjergaard explained that the Airport offices had always been inside the safety areas of 220, but new FAA rules about taxiways had caused a need to move it. He said they expected to get some funding to address that issue in 2023 or 2024, but they need to move their existing building first.

Mr. Kjergaard stated that the fee increase for sewer service was necessary because the fees were not covering the expense. He predicted that the cost would increase again next year.

Mr. Kjergaard remarked that there were federal requirements to physically secure the airport, so they were putting in additional fences. He said that they had vehicles stray on to the taxiways in the past; people had gotten confused and mistaken it for a roadway. He added that they were trying to seal off every access point, which was why they were also changing the gate access system.

Mr. Kjergaard said that they were working with Aerostar and the Coeur d'Alene Resort to secure their areas as well.

Mr. Kjergaard confirmed that the funding for the fences would come from the Airport's Fund Balance, in addition to grants.

Commissioner Duncan inquired about the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Star to allow them to use the north side for motorcycle instruction.

Mr. Kjergaard reported that Star had been notified that the pavement was going to be torn up. He said they had been informed that this would be the last year they would be accommodated by the Airport and that it was not known specifically when the project would be started. He stated they had been informed by telephone but that he could send them written confirmation if that was requested. He added that the MOU had actually been cancelled by the Airport last year and Star had just been continuing to use the area until the pavement was removed. He agreed to provide Commissioner Duncan with the documentation.

Mr. Kjergaard updated the Board on the skydiving group, which was already in operation. He commented that there had been an issue with the Airport and the FAA because they had been operating on the east side, over a populated area, which was not permitted. He said they were relocated to the west of Huetter, over an unpopulated area. He stated that he had received multiple complaints about it, but the Airport had to allow the group as long as they were not in violation of any rules. He said they had confirmed this with the regional certification inspector and the FAA Program Manager. He added that they jump about once a month, for about four days in a week.

Mr. Kjergaard stated that they were anticipating their yearly FAA AIP (Airport Improvement Project) grant of about \$600,000 to be offered at 100% this year, due to

special considerations related to COVID. He said this would be used for fencing, as discussed above.

Airport Advisory Board Chair Joan Genter praised Tim Komberec for his great presentation to their group on the effects of the pandemic on the airline industry.

Mr. Kjergaard added that they had not received any further contact from Alaska Air about storing some of their planes.

- D. Public Comment:** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing.

Hayden Resident James Walsh expressed his dissatisfaction with the decoupling project and the direction the Airport was taking in general. He remarked that he was also not pleased with the Airport Director. He advised the Board to question the details of the decoupling project closely because he felt it was not being handled properly. He also complained that concrete barriers had been erected to block an easement between two hangars without any warning to himself or the other owner. He stated he wanted to meet privately with one or more of the Commissioners, without the Airport Director present.

Chairman Fillios said they would discuss his request and contact him.

- E. Adjournment (Action):** Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
