

**THE GRAND FORKS REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

January 25, 2018

The Grand Forks Regional Airport Authority Board of Commissioners met in the Board Room of the Byron L. Dorgan Terminal on Thursday, January 25, 2018, but did not have a quorum. Members present were Karl Bollingberg, Jeannie Mock and Rick Meland. Staff attending included Ryan Riesinger, Executive Director, Tanna Aasand, Director of Finance/Administration, and Rick Audette, Operations and Maintenance Manager. Airport Attorney Tim Dittus was also in attendance.

A. Reading and Approval of Minutes

Did not have a quorum.

B. Reports

1. Financial Report

Aasand reviewed the December financial reports and gave a recap of 2017's financials.

2. Director Report

After welcoming the UND aviation students that were in the audience, Riesinger recapped some highlights from 2017: The East General Aviation (GA) and the Taxiway U projects are complete; the GLC AAAE conference had a net income of \$50,000 (typically has been \$25-30K); enplanements were down 11% for the year, but was 4% more than we had forecasted. We are increasing our advertising in Canada now that their currency exchange rate is back more in our favor. Operations were up 4.2%, and we are forecasting higher numbers in 2018 due to UND Aviation's enrollment increases. Riesinger then reported on some priorities for 2018, including airfield development, airline lease negotiations, west GA development, the sort facility, UND Hockey's Las Vegas game (preparations for getting fans to Las Vegas), and the FBO survey (results coming soon). There was also a report on the airport's backup generators and Nodak's electricity feed. ARFF/Ops Supervisor Chris Deitz reported on our annual Gifts for Kids program that benefited the Northeast Human Service Center at Christmastime. Lastly, Riesinger reported on our successful coordination of resources for assisting passengers that had been diverted to GFK during a snowstorm that closed MSP's runways on Monday. The (Grand Forks) Cities Area Transport provided four buses and we used our shuttle bus to transport over 330 people to and from hotels.

3. Chairman Report

None.

C. New Business

1. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Review

Riesinger presented the CIP that spanned 2018-2025. Extending Runway 9L-27R would be the focus for the next 5 years, and reconstructing Runway 17R-35L (our primary runway) could potentially start in 2023. These two major projects are still in the FAA approval process.

2. Fuel Storage Tank Inspection & SPCC Plan

Tabled until the next meeting due to not having a quorum.

Respectfully submitted,

Coleen Peterson, Board Secretary

**PROCEEDINGS OF
THE GRAND FORKS REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

March 22, 2018

The Grand Forks Regional Airport Authority Board of Commissioners met in its regular session in the Board Room of the Byron L. Dorgan Terminal on Thursday, March 22, 2018, presided by Chairman Karl Bollingberg. Members present were Rick Meland, Jeannie Mock, Gary Malm, Tim Mutchler and Steve Kuhlman. Absent was Brad Beyer. Staff attending included Ryan Riesinger, Executive Director, Tanna Aasand, Director of Finance/Administration, and Rick Audette, Operations and Maintenance Manager. Airport Attorney Tim Dittus was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

A. Reading and Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Malm and seconded by Mock to approve the minutes for the December 21, 2017 meeting as written. **Action Taken:** Motion carried unanimously.

B. Reports

1. Financial Report

Aasand introduced Brian Opsahl from Brady Martz to present the 2017 Audit Report.

The Auditors' opinion of the 2017 Financials was that they were presented fairly, in all material respects. Mr. Opsahl reviewed the Audit Report with the Board, highlighting the that the 2017 Budget was very close to the Actual.

Aasand then reviewed the February and YTD 2018 financial reports and answered questions.

Staff was praised by Chairman Bollingberg for staying on track with the 2017 Budget.

2. Director Report

Riesinger introduced new employees Kyle Bjornstad, Matthew Snell, Robert Goebel, intern Nick Whiting, and asked the visiting UND Aviation Management students to introduce themselves. He then briefed the Board as follows:

Operations – GFK achieved a new record for the month of February with 32,091 take-offs and landings. Attributed to generally good flying weather and a higher number of flight students.

Airline Stats – enplanements were down 10% for the month of February, with 23% less Allegiant flights this year than last year. Looking ahead we will be down about the same amount in March and April, and then we should level off with about the same number of flights as the previous year for the remainder of 2018.

Mead and Hunt Air Service Conference – met with airlines and heard their latest plans. Also conducted one-on-one meetings with representatives from United, Frontier, American, and Allegiant. United and Frontier expressed interest in continuing discussions. United would seem like the most viable option with service to Denver and Chicago O'Hare a possibility. Looking at possibility of an incentive grant.

UND Hockey in Las Vegas – for this special event, Allegiant has added flights on October 25 & 28, \$330 one-way. Initial planning is underway to make this a special event for those going to the game from our area.

Airline Operating and Lease Agreement update – continued discussions with Delta and Allegiant reps. Last meeting was in early February.

Airport Master Plan update – currently completing internal staff review of the Alternatives Chapter. This chapter includes all of the runway configuration alternatives as well as other future developments. This will then be sent to the FAA Airport District Office for their review and comment.

AIP Funding update – Congress is attempting to complete work on an omnibus appropriations bill to fund the government through September. A final vote is expected by the end of this week. At play in that measure is a provision already approved by the Senate that would increase the PFC to \$8.50 for originating passengers. Also under discussion is possible increased money for AIP. If congress fails to complete work on the omnibus bill this week, another temporary extension will be necessary since the current funding authorization expires March 23.

The City of Grand Forks and USDA Wildlife Services entered into a Cooperative Agreement to help control wildlife at the wastewater treatment plant lagoons. The past two years were especially active for wildlife in and around the Airport, particularly with seagulls. Weather in 2016 was wet (worms), 2017 was very dry (crickets and grasshoppers). We reached out to the USDA Wildlife Services, who provides us our wildlife depredation permit and has conducted wildlife hazard assessments in the past, and this past fall they conducted site assessments of the airport and lagoons and provided each of us with their findings and recommendations. Grass heights, managing haying operations, removing perching and/or nesting sites, and continuing our already strong training and enforcement actions were all recommended for the airport. The wastewater treatment lagoons are a special challenge when it comes to wildlife primarily because of their size and limited staff available. For this reason it was recommended for the City to directly contract with the USDA to provide trained wildlife personnel to assist in this effort. Riesinger was happy to report that this agreement was approved recently by the City Council and staff will be working cooperatively and proactively to reduce the wildlife concerns in the vicinity of the airport.

Recent vehicle accident at Airport Drive/Highway 2 Intersection – fortunately there were no serious injuries. We have not seen the final report as to the cause. Position of the sun at that time of the morning may have been a factor.

Valley Med v. IAS, et al. – earlier this month the Grand Forks Regional Airport Authority was named as a Defendant in an incident that occurred in April of 2016. A Valley Med Pilatus aircraft was struck by a mail cart handled by IAS during a high wind event. All total the damages were alleged to be over \$500,000.00 when including inspections, ferry flight, repairs, and down time. We received a subpoena requesting information on the incident in January of 2017, but we were not named as a Defendant at that time. Valley Med Flight and IAS were unable to come to an agreement to resolve the matter, as IAS believes the United States Postal Service and the Airport are also partially responsible (they allege that ice on the ramp was a contributing factor). Our insurance underwriter, AIG, is providing legal counsel, and our local attorneys Tim Dittus / Randi Hanson have also been involved in the initial conversations. Our team believes we are in very good position to defend the Airport. In the unlikely event that the

Airport is found to be liable for any damages, our insurance will cover 100% of the damages with no deductible. The attorney fees would also be covered 100% by our insurance policy.

Oakwells Lease Extension – The current food service, vending, and gift shop concession agreement with Oakwells expires June 20th, 2018. Oakwells provides a good service and the product is of high quality. They are interested in extending the term of the agreement, are willing to negotiate, and have proposed various improvements to equipment and their space. We have just enough time to put out an RFP for these services, but Riesinger recommends we attempt to negotiate with Oakwells to extend the agreement. The Board would have final review and approval of the successfully negotiated agreement.

Delta Global Services (DGS) at GFK is being recognized this month as Delta Station of the year for our size category (50 other airports) – they were judged on their on-time flights, baggage completion rate, customer feedback, safety record, etc.

Commissioner Mutchler commended the airport for entering the ARFF truck in the St. Patrick's Day parade. He also urged airport management to be proactive and aware of any of the DOT's proposed changes to the intersection at Highway 2 and Airport Drive.

3. Chairman Report

None.

C. New Business

1. 2017 Airport Audit

A motion by Mutchler, seconded by Meland to receive the 2017 Audit Report as presented.

Action taken: Motion passed unanimously.

2. Fuel Storage Tank Inspection

The fuel farm steel tanks are due for a formal external tank integrity testing as required by current EPA regulations, section 112.5. The inspection standards will establish a baseline plan to determine the current condition of these 1995 steel tanks and an inspection schedule for the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan. A Professional Engineer (P.E.) signature is required for these Plan amendments. Dakota Environmental, in conjunction with the tank inspections, has the required staff and qualifications to complete the SPCC Plan. KLJ Engineers did not provide a quote saying their bid would be higher than Dakota Environmental due to overhead and staffing. Local vendor Valley Petroleum and tank manufacturer O'Day Equipment did not have certified staff to perform these required services. It was moved by Malm, seconded by Kuhlman to approve the Dakota Environmental quotes for the fuel farm tank inspections and SPCC Plan for a combined total of \$6,570.00 NTE from the fuel farm storage fund, and authorization for the Executive Director to execute the required documents.

Action taken: Motion passed unanimously.

3. 17R-35L Geotechnical Engineering Report

At our Airport Authority Board meeting on May 25, 2017, the Board approved a scope of services with KLJ to complete a Geotechnical Investigation and Engineering Report on Runway 17R-35L. The Executive Summary is [attached](#) and an electronic copy of the full report is available. Nick Enblom, P.E. from KLJ reviewed the Summary's key points with the Board and answered questions. The runway cores and soil borings performed last June showed the base concrete is holding up although some areas are weak according to FAA standards, but the runway still has a few years of use left. Five options to reconstruct or rehabilitate the runway

ranged in cost from \$25M-\$67M with timelines for shut-downs ranging from 40 days to 180 days, all with their pros and cons. The Board viewed the amount of time the runway would be closed for any of the options as a major concern - it would risk losing commercial service to GFK. Mutchler asked about alternatives that would allow the runway to stay open. Riesinger said the Master Plan provides good alternatives and added that this report can be used for justification for the FAA funding them. Meland moved to accept the Runway 17R-35L Geotechnical Engineering Report, seconded by Mock. **Action taken:** Motion carried unanimously.

4. Mead & Hunt Air Service Agreement

The current annual agreement with Mead & Hunt to provide Air Service Consultant Services expires March 31, 2018. Mead & Hunt performed their services well, met all of the requirements, and provided a valuable service to the Airport Authority over the past year. They assisted us in establishing the GFK Air Service Task Force with local and area business leaders, and would be working with us as we pursue additional service for the area. A new proposed scope of services was reviewed, and a motion was made by Mutchler, seconded by Kuhlman, to approve the Air Service Consulting Services Agreement with Mead & Hunt in the total amount of \$49,845.00, and authorize the Executive Director to execute the required documents. **Action taken:** Motion carried unanimously.

5. Health Insurance Plan Discussion

The Grand Forks Regional Airport Authority conducts “Open Enrollment” of our various insurance benefit plans offered to employees during the month of April. These plans then become effective May 1. We currently offer two health insurance plans through Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota – a “low deductible” \$500 Platinum plan, and a “high deductible” \$2300 Gold plan. The Airport pays 75% of the premium and the Employee pays 25%. We recently received our renewal rates and our existing health insurance plan premiums are to increase 13.89% (\$22,923.90) over what we are currently paying. In addition, since the 2018 Budget was approved in August of 2017, there have been 8 additional individuals added to the plans (1 employee, 3 spouses, and 4 children) due to new employees/families/children, a marriage, or other qualifying life events. The combined effect of these two realities will put us approximately 25.5% over budget (\$38,180.69) in our Health Insurance line item if we continue to offer the current plans. Note that we budgeted a 10% increase for Health Insurance in 2018. In an effort to control these cost increases and balance them between the Airport and Employees, we have compared other plans offered through Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota, and plans from other providers (Medica and Sanford). We have also considered keeping the current plans and adjusting the Airport and Employee shares of the premium (change from current 75%/25% split to 65%/35%). After review, staff recommends the following change to our Health Insurance Plan: Offer a “low deductible” \$1,000 Gold, a \$1,600 Gold, and a “high deductible” \$2,700 Silver instead of the current plans. This results in a less than 1% increase in our current premiums (\$1,261.98), and an 11.03% increase over budget for 2018 (\$16,518.77). Estimates are based off employees staying in their low deductible or high deductible plan, although they have the option to switch plans during open enrollment so actual amounts may vary. There was a motion by Mutchler to approve the changes to the Health Insurance plan offerings, and authorization for the Executive Director to execute the required documents. Mock seconded the motion. Kuhlman suggested contacting the Home Builders Association about joining that group if their health benefits were more affordable. Mutchler amended his motion to include the Home Builders Association option if it proved

to be beneficial. Mock seconded the amendment. **Action taken:** Motion carried unanimously.

6. Other

None

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Coleen Peterson, Board Secretary

**PROCEEDINGS OF
THE GRAND FORKS REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

April 26, 2018

The Grand Forks Regional Airport Authority Board of Commissioners met in its regular session in the Board Room of the Byron L. Dorgan Terminal on Thursday, April 26, 2018, presided by Chairman Karl Bollingberg. Members present were Gary Malm, Tim Mutchler and Brad Beyer. Absent were Steve Kuhlman and Jeannie Mock. Staff attending included Ryan Riesinger, Executive Director, Tanna Aasand, Director of Finance/Administration, and Rick Audette, Operations and Maintenance Manager. Airport Attorney Tim Dittus was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

A. Reading and Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Malm and seconded by Mutchler to approve the minutes for the March 22, 2018 meeting as written. **Action Taken:** Motion carried unanimously.

B. Reports

1. Financial Report

Aasand gave a follow up report on the Health Insurance Plan Discussion at last month's meeting. The Home Builder's Association is unable to allow our group in on their insurance plan due to the Affordable Care Act's rules. She then reviewed highlights in the financial reports and answered questions from the board. The 2019 budgeting process has been started.

2. Director Report

Airport Master Plan update – internal staff review of the Alternatives Chapter has been completed and has been submitted to the FAA Airports District Office for their review and comment.

Statistics – the March 2018 load factors were a healthy 96.2% for Allegiant. Delta's load factors have continued to track steadily around 80%. Commissioner Mutchler commented on his airfare searches, and asked Riesinger why GFK is showing such high fares. Riesinger explained that GFK's seat capacity is lower in comparison to larger airports, therefore the lower fare seats are sold out sooner. He added that our fares are very comparable to Fargo's, but unfortunately, not to MSP's.

3. Chairman Report

None.

C. New Business

1. Airport Master Plan – Amendment to Task Order #1

The Airport Authority Board approved Task Order #1 with KLJ on August 27, 2015, to complete a Scope of Services that included updating the Airport Master Plan (AMP) and Airport Layout Plan (ALP). Since that time, several additional items were needed that were outside of the original scope, including:

1. An additional set of “focus group” meetings was conducted December 12-14, 2016, to review preliminary alternatives with Airport staff, Airport Authority Board, and various tenants, and stakeholders.
2. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requested an additional on-site agency meeting to discuss the preliminary AMP airfield alternatives. This meeting was held on March 1, 2017.
3. The FAA then recommended a Safety Risk Management Panel (SRMP) be conducted to review the preliminary airfield alternatives from the AMP study. This meeting was held May 23, 2017.
4. In July 2017, Airport and KLJ staff participated in a new Air Traffic Control Tower siting process that had implications for the AMP, ALP, and Terminal Area Building Plan.

These items resulted in additional costs of \$49,008.03. Per standard policy the FAA does not typically amend planning grants, however, given the unique timing and complexity of our projects, and that the FAA requested and/or recommended the additional items, they agreed to review the additional costs to determine eligibility. After several reviews, the FAA determined that \$25,624.98 of the costs were eligible for 90% FAA grant funding ([see attachment](#)).

The Airport’s local share of the eligible cost is 5%, or \$1,281.25. This is an unbudgeted amount, but there are funds available in the capital reserve account.

KLJ and Airport Staff are reviewing the remaining costs that were deemed ineligible for the amendment by the FAA. These costs may be included as part of the original grant, if possible, or we may need to work out a separate agreement. There may be additional costs incurred outside the scope of the AMP project that the Airport could be responsible for, i.e. an additional trip to Washington D.C. to meet with legislators and/or FAA Headquarters to present our preferred alternative(s). This is a work in progress. Any additional costs outside the scope of the project would need to be approved by the Airport Authority Board prior to payment.

A motion by Mutchler, seconded by Malm to approve the Airport Master Plan Amendment to Task Order #1 in the amount of \$25,624.98 and authorize the Executive Director to execute the required documents. **Action taken:** Motion passed unanimously.

2. Other

None

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Coleen Peterson, Board Secretary