



Idaho Aeronautics Advisory Board



QUARTERLY MEETING

- LOCATION:** Best Western Riverside Hotel, Room: Delamar; 2900 W Chinden Blvd, Boise 83714
- DATE:** April 6, 2023; 08:00 – 17:00 MST
- VIRTUAL:** [Click here to join the meeting](#); Meeting ID: 226 627 956 253 Passcode: Hip9yN
- ATTENDEES:** Mark Sweeney, Chairman ◻ John Blakely, Member ◻ Chris Pomeroy, Member ◻ Jeff Marker, Administrator ◻ Mollie McCarty, Chief Administrative Officer ◻ Jennifer Schildgen, Airport Planning and Development Manager ◻ Tim Steffen, Director of Flight Operations ◻ Dan Conner, Airport Manager ◻ Tom Humphries, Pilot – Safety and Education Coordinator ◻ Shelly Haskins, Admin Support ◻ Flo Ghighina, Aviation Tech ◻ Steffen Verdin, Airport Planner ◻

MINUTES

Welcome and introductions – Chairman Sweeney

- Call meeting to order 08:01
- Introductions

Review and approval of Feb. 21, 2023 minutes - All

- Member Blakely motioned to approve meeting minutes; Chairman Sweeney seconded; motion approved.

Board Member Reports – All

Mark Sweeney, Chairman

- Pullman-Moscow airport had an all-time high with 72,000 enplanements, which does not include charters.
- Tony Bean, PUW Airport Manager expended ~ \$150M on infrastructure over seven years.
 - Completion will be by end of December.
- Lewiston airport had 41,000 enplanements compared to 14,000 in 2020 (pandemic).
 - Expended ~ \$22M in infrastructure; most are minimum revenue guarantee.

John Blakely, Member

- Weather slightly decreased GA (general aviation) activity in southwest Idaho this winter.
- Nampa and Caldwell remain very busy on good weather days and flight training generated at these two airports continues to increase. Much of the increased training activity is spreading to airports such as Parma, Homedale, Emmett, and Ontario.
- Nampa airport, bids for the new hangar development have been solicited. This new development in which taxi lanes were funded 100% with federal dollars. There will be 24 new hangars. The infrastructure portion is complete, and the City will award hangar development to 1 or 2 contractors. Bids have closed but not been awarded. The city of Nampa has put in sewer and water pipes.
- Nampa airport would like to build a new terminal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law legislation using funds from the federal government and plans to submit for that every year.
- Snow levels will dictate the early season flying in Frank Church wilderness. Heavy late snows could require flights to Indian Creek airstrip to start trips if the road to Boundary Creek is not open.

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**Meals provided will not be claimed by any ITD employees.*

Chris Pomeroy, Member

- Snow/weather has been an issue this year resulting in general aviation being down 11% YTD and 17% in March 2023 from March 2022.
- The airport authority is developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for new hangar development and potential second FBO at the airport.
- Sun is no longer pursuing a remote/digital air traffic control tower solution for the airport. The Authority is moving forward with conventional sticks and bricks air traffic control tower.
- Several Idaho Airport Directors, including Rick Cloutier (IDA), Chris Pomeroy (SUN), Tony Bean (PUW) and Rebecca Hupp (BOI), were recently in Washington DC, for a legislative reception and meetings with our congressional delegation. The importance of the upcoming FAA Reauthorization was a key talking point.
- Expect presentation at the next IAAB regarding the upcoming FAA reauthorization and its potential impacts on Idaho airports.

Administrator Update – Jeff Marker

Personnel

- Governor Little nominated James Hoff as the new Aeronautics Advisory Board member. It did not make it to legislature this year, nonetheless, Member Hoff will fully function as a of the board. Board members are encouraged to join the full onboarding process with Aero staff. ACTION ITEM: Jeff Marker will reach out to James Hoff and begin onboarding.
- Administrator position has four candidates. Director Stokes will make the final choice and Administrator Jeff to give his recommendation. Chairman Sweeney will be on the interview panel.
- Pilot/UAS Coordinator position had three applicants, and none met all the requirements.
- Asking legislature for an additional FTE (full time employee) for UAS Program Manager and another position to execute the program.
- Burley legal action has reached the end of 6-month tort claim and a possible lawsuit.
- All submissions for webcams have gone through FAA asking to install and operate and be added to FAA webcam site.
- The \$35M will be distributed as \$33M for Trustee and Benefits (grants) and \$2M for backcountry airports. The \$33M will carry over to next year whereas the \$2M will not carry forward. The \$35M has not been signed although it has been approved by legislature. Member Pomeroy asks about engaging airport managers when determining the spending of the \$33M. Administrator Marker says “yes” although it is part of Idaho Airport Aid Program, which is managed by Jennifer Schildgen.
- Grant management software continues in the testing phase throughout ITD and is managed by Jennifer Schildgen.
- Dr. Gloria Totoricaguena and the research project for UAS has most recently formed a TAC (technical advisory committee) and will meet this week to discuss airspace below 400 feet. The research project will be completed and the findings presented to the ITD Board in July 2023.
- Commercial air service will need to be discussed as it has an impact on three airports where Idaho Airport Aid funds cannot be used.
- Chairman Sweeney asks if the Division has received any engineering estimates to have culverts for mitigating the drainage issues effecting the runway at Cold Creek. Administrator Marker did not have anything to report.

Financial Update – Jeff Marker for Ruth Munoz

- Revenues are ahead (interagency sources are the primary customer) and jet fuel is the main expense.
- Trustee and Benefits is an anomaly due to the final budget report not being available.
- Caretakers’ wages have been increased.
- Administrator Jeff will be paid his vacation from staff salary savings.
- Technology operating expense has not been fully expended yet.
- Chairman Sweeney asks why capital facilities expense has hardly been expended compared to what is allotted. Administrator Markers responds answers operating expenses are not expended like due to a shortage of supplies and materials.
- July 2023 Aeronautics Advisory Board meeting will provide backcountry financial reports.

BREAK

Meeting called back to order by Chairman Sweeney at 09:09.

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Airport Planning and Development – Jennifer Schildgen

New Rexburg Airport

- Presentation by Dave Mitchell, P.E. Aviation Services Manager at Northwest Ardurra Group
 - Airport was built in 1949 and the city of Rexburg has grown significantly.
 - Currently in the process of selecting a suitable site, which includes a study which included four configurations. The study also includes Indian and wildlife screening, and a feasibility analysis.
 1. North area has multiple landowners and is in Fremont county (governmental issues).
 2. South area has weather and visibility near zero.
 3. West area is BLM (Bureau of Land Management) land and environmental issues.
 - Cost estimates for each site include: B-11 partial, B-11 Full, and C-II Full (capable for jets).
 - Awaiting a decision from BLM to deny or approve the request; decision is due by the end of April. Clearing the environment is the next step.

Flight Operations – Tim Steffen

- Tim Henderson manages the aviation maintenance department and has been awarded Master Mechanic certification through Flight Safety.
- Pilot training includes Tom Humphries who is complete on Co-Pilot in both aircraft and needs more training flights for PIC (Pilot In Charge).
- Maintenance training includes the winter cycle maintenance:
 - Cessna 206 is complete.
 - Kodiak will be down over the next two-three weeks.
 - King Air needs starter-generators, IFR check. Temp employee to help.
- Idaho Aviation Accident Score Card (IAASC Report) is the study of accidents in Idaho involving aircraft. The data is two years behind and is the deciding factor for training pilots.
 - Accidents from 2020 - 2022 has a 35% increase where the fatal accidents are due to crosswinds.
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Updates
 - YouTube video for training pilots to fly in backcountry – “Idaho Division of Aeronautics Backcountry Safety Johnson Creek” has a final release of May 20.
 - ACTION ITEM: Tim to add to lesson on major crossing traffic (Member Blakely recommendation).
- Search and Rescue (SAR) Update for 2022:
 - Idaho had 37 total accidents, 6 were fatal.
 - A total of 63 calls and 46 were false alarms.
 - A total of 146 hours was spent supporting SAR.
 - SR22 out of oxbow Caldwell to Lewiston had 2 fatalities.

Safety and Education – Tom Humphries

- Art Contest winners will be announced May 5.
- ACE Academy is June 21-23.
- Idaho Aviation Expo was cancelled by IAA (Idaho Aviation Association).
- Safety Stand Down is Sat. May 20 at Nampa Civic Center 9am – 4pm and is sponsored by MAF (Mission Aviation Federation).
- Round Engine Round-Up is June 15-17 at Idaho Falls Rainbow Ranch, which includes the annual backcountry trip to Smiley Creek on Saturday.
- Backcountry Safety Group has RAF on July 1.
- Rusty Pilot COE is in Coeur d’Alene on July 15.

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Airport Management – Dan Conner

- The Airport Spotlight is on Warm Springs Creek (OU1), which is between Lowman and Stanley.
- The caretakers are delayed due to weather which may delay opening dates for backcountry locations.
- Hoodoo Meadows has a SUP (Special Use Permit) and is now managed by Aeronautics.
- Leading Idaho Projects Include concrete foundations under the Cav & Johnson trailers, snow roofs for Johnson Creek and Cavanaugh Bay, maintenance shed for Big Creek, tools.
- Snowmobile issues damaging runways are at a record high. We are working with Parks & Recreation and getting the word out along with having them incorporate training into their classes.
- Stanley Airport helicopter fire base will be moving, as well as building gravel pads and possibly a portable tower.
 - Chairman Sweeney asks how much the tower would cost. Conner answers it would be paid for by the group or the agency putting it up.
- A form reporting conditions at airports has been created and has a designed QR code which will allow for data to be exported into a spreadsheet plus send an email notification when a report is submitted.

Other Business – Chairman Sweeney

- June 2 begins retirement for Jeff Marker. We appreciate all the work he has put in before retirement.
- Next Aeronautics Advisory Board meeting should show Idaho's backcountry around July.
 - Backcountry tour at Smiley Creek includes Boise to Smiley Creek, Garden Valley, Big Creek, overfly Hoodoo then back to Smiley Creek for the meeting.
 - Consider how density altitude may be an issue.
- Upcoming ITD Board meetings will include visits to each district.

Working Lunch - All

Attend IAMA Conference – All

- Member Blakely motioned to adjourn, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 10:15.
- IAMA Conference begins and will conclude Fri. April 7 12:00.

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