



# Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Airport – Bowman Field

## Airport Advisory Board

**Wednesday, September 27th, 2023**

**Meeting called by** Carlye Hansen,  
Planning Secretary

**Type of meeting** Monthly Meeting

**Minutes taken by** Carlye Hansen

**Members Present:** Eric Cortright, Vice-Chair;  
Andrew Heppe; Randy Johnson; Dan Klima  
(via telephone); Laura Mancevich

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff:** Carlye Hansen, Planning Department  
Secretary; Mike Beausoleil, Commission  
Representative; Monte Belgarde, Airport  
Manager; Greg Bahr, ADLC Staff

**Staff Absent:** None

**Guests:** Matt Wilder, RPA (please see sign-in  
sheet)

### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 am

There was a brief introduction of a guest in attendance. Her name is Donni Cochran, and she is from Engle Springs, CO. She has moved here within the last few years and is interested in aviation. She has a friend, who has deceased, who was very influential with the Women's Pilot Organization. She is hoping to be able to come to our meetings regularly.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

*Motion made by Eric Cortright to accept the minutes from August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023;  
seconded by Andrew Heppe. Motion passes 5-0.*

### MANAGER'S REPORT

Monte Belgarde, Airport Manager gave his report. As of now, activity is down. There seems to be a lot of operations with touch and goes. He did state that there must have been some sort of a power surge, as normally he only goes through roughly fifteen runway lights per month. For some reason, he has had to replace fifty-five this past month and is not too sure why, other than a power surge. He states that the plow truck is ready and working in anticipation of winter. He also reported that he is having trouble producing the Aircraft Inventory. Right now, we need to have ten registered airplanes and we only have nine.



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He is hoping that Mr. Pitts will be registering his plane in the county, and that will give us the number that we need.

- **Update on FAA Cameras**

Mr. Belgarde stated the cameras came in and have been installed. There has been a bit of trouble with static, and with the IP address. He will be touching base with an IT person by Friday.

- **Update on DigiWx**

Mr. Belgarde got the computer back that runs the DigiWx system. They were able to fix the problem at hand, however, unbelievably this computer is using an old Windows 5 operating system, and at this point, they cannot guarantee that they will be able to fix this next time or be able to retrieve information. The cost for the repair of this was only \$300.

### CONSULTANT'S REPORT

Matt Wilder, from RPA, was here today to go over this month's consultant report with the board. **Please see attachment.** In this report, the Inventory Updates, the new AWOS, the upcoming pavement maintenance, and pending fuel farm were all discussed in great deal. There was also extensive discussion held on the apron layout for fueling/taxiing aircraft, and large aircraft/jet parking and this was all discussed and the various layouts were given to the members of the Board. **Please see attachment.** There was also significant discussion today regarding the fuel farm, and the fact that ADLC will not man this as a business. The Board will need to hire a separate entity to run this. There are several folks that several members of the Board have in mind, and this will continue to be discussed. At the next meeting, the Board has asked for Mr. Wilder to bring in facts and figures, and more ideas on who could run this fuel farm. Both Dan Klima and Mr. Cortright are concerned about this, getting the fuel farm done, and then having no one to run it. They are also looking for an answer regarding the flowage fee.

### OLD BUSINESS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

Laura Mancevich wanted to discuss the potential of setting up a yearly date for the annual Fly-In. She thinks that we should set a date and have it the same weekend every year. Carlye Hansen mentioned that while this worked this year, this is also the last weekend before school starts in the area, and she feels that a lot of folks are out of town, or shopping for school things, or just trying to get their mind set for the upcoming school year. She thinks that this should be moved several weeks back and perhaps setting that as our permanent weekend. We are also extremely lucky that there was no smoke this year, but in years past, there has been a history of a lot of smoke-filled skies at the end of August, and that can also prohibit a good turnout. This is something that will need to be discussed at an upcoming meeting.



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## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Donni Cochran asked about advertising and the possibility of getting local businesses and groups to sponsor tie on advertisements on the fence around the Pilot's Lounge and the hangars. She has seen this before and thinks that this is a good idea as an advertisement for folks flying to the airport to see and hopefully visit some of the sponsors, therefore bringing more money to the airport and the community. This will be brought up at the next meeting.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion was made by Andrew Heppe to adjourn; seconded by Randy Johnson.  
Motion passed 5-0. Meeting was adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted,

Carlye Hansen  
Planning Department Secretary