

MINUTES
Nebraska Aeronautics Commission
April 24, 2014

The Nebraska Aeronautics Commission held their regular meeting at the department's offices, Lincoln, Nebraska. Commissioner Terri Wachter called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. CDT. Commissioners Doug Vap, Diana Smith, Michael Cook and Dorothy Anderson were in attendance. Also present were Project Management Division Manager Russ Gasper, Deputy Director Andre Aman, Planning/Programming Division Manager Anna Lannin, and Director Ronnie Mitchell.

Public Comment

NONE

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were amended to reflect the presence of Commissioner Cook at the last Commission meeting. Commissioner Terri Wachter called for the approval of the minutes as amended. Roll call vote. All voted aye.

State Funds Available

A written report of state funds available was presented by Andre Aman.

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PROJECT GRANT FUND

Funds available December 31, 2013	\$88,652.79
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<u>Commission Actions (2/07/14 meeting)</u>	
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Closed Project - Ord 05/06	\$910.83	
Subtotal		\$910.83

<u>Other Actions</u>	
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None		
Subtotal		\$0.00

Funds available March 31, 2014	\$89,563.62
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Funds available May 2013: \$7,394.76

STATE OWNED AIRFIELDS (SOA) DIVERSION GRANT FUND

Funds available December 31, 2013 \$0.00

Commission Actions (2/07/14 meeting)

None

Funds available March 31, 2014 \$0.00

Funds available May 2013: \$0

SEAL COAT GRANT FUND (Pavement Preservation Program)

Funds available December 31, 2013 \$179,843.18

Commission Actions (2/07/14 meeting)

None

Subtotal \$0.00

Other Actions

None

Subtotal \$0.00

Funds available March 31, 2014 \$179,843.18

Funds available May 2013: \$129,843.18

HANGAR REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Funds available December 31, 2013 \$605,795.25

Commission Actions (2/07/14 meeting)

None

Subtotal \$0.00

Other Actions

2 pymts from Hall County credited by mistake	-\$4,860.00	
OMA #4847 paid off - unused allocation ret.	\$108,675.61	
Subtotal		\$103,815.61

Receipts

January 2014	\$29,994.00	
February 2014	\$26,304.00	
March 2014	\$29,279.00	
Subtotal		\$85,577.00

Funds available March 31, 2014	\$795,187.86
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Funds available May 2013: \$574,801.25
Total amount in Hangar Loan fund: \$3,768,360

FUEL STORAGE LOAN FUND

Funds available December 31, 2013	\$147,886.42
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Commission Actions (2/07/14 meeting)

None		
Subtotal		\$0.00

Other Actions

None	
Subtotal	

Receipts

January 2014	\$2,393.33	
February 2014	\$2,393.33	
March 2014	\$2,393.33	
Subtotal		\$7,179.99

Funds available March 31, 2014	\$155,066.41
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Funds available May 2013: \$141,862.67
Total amount in Fuel Storage fund: \$336,500

NON-PRIMARY ENTITLEMENT TRANSFER PROGRAM

Funds available December 31, 2013	\$2,123.75
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Funds Disbursed

3,870
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Superior	-100	
Subtotal		-\$100.00
Funds available March 31, 2014		<hr/> \$2,023.75

Motion by Commissioner Michael Cook to accept the report of State Funds as published. Second by Commissioner Diana Smith. Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Fuel Loan Request

Albion

Scope: Construct Credit Card Control & Replace 100LL Fuel Pump
Total Estimated Cost: \$17,143

The Albion Municipal Airport Board requests a loan for a fuel system upgrade including a credit card reader and electronic fuel pump. A bid from Stanley Petroleum was included in the loan request and they are expecting a second bid to be submitted shortly. The project will be awarded to the low bid.

The commission discussed the types of credit card readers. A motion was made by Commissioner Michael Cook to loan the Albion Airport Authority \$12,000 for a credit card reader and fuel pump. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dorothy Anderson. Roll call vote. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Federal Projects

Anna Lannin presented the following projects. The airport sponsors are requesting Commission approval for the CIP data sheets to be forwarded to the FAA, as required by state statutes. The FAA considers the requests for future federal funding as funds become available. No state funds are requested at this time.

Bassett G-03

Scope: Replace Runway and Taxiway Lights
Total Estimated Cost: \$370,000

Medium intensity runway and taxiway lights were installed in 1988 and have reached the end of their useful life. Removal and replacement with base-mounted lights is proposed.

Holdrege M-02

Scope: Fuel Facility Upgrade for 100LL & Jet A
Total Estimated Cost: \$270,000

The existing field fuel facility cannot be upgraded in the current location. In order to meet current fire code regulations, a new fuel facility is necessary. The proposed location meets current fire code regulations and does not interfere with any future apron or taxiway expansion projects. Also, the

airport desires to add Jet A Fuel to provide additional fuel capacity at the airport.

Holdrege X-02

Scope: Taxilane & Approach Rehabilitation

Total Estimated Cost: \$210,000

The Brewster Field's existing taxilanes are in poor condition and are becoming a safety hazard for aircraft. The distressed areas require removal and replacement to resolve FOD and drainage concerns around the T-hangar and taxilane approach.

Holdrege E-02

Scope: SRE: Broom Attachment

Total Estimated Cost: \$52,500

The airport needs an additional piece of reliable equipment to complete airfield snow removal operations. Brooms allow for removal of light snow without damaging pavement. A new broom is essential for timely removal of snow.

Holdrege B-05

Scope: Hangar, 60' x 60'

Total Estimated Cost: \$320,000

Brewster Field is in need of a new building for additional aircraft storage. The airport has a waiting list for the additional space. The approximate proposed building location is shown on the ALP.

Wahoo G-03

Scope: Replace Taxiway Lights

Total Estimated Cost: \$450,000

The existing taxiway lights will need to be removed and replaced in the short term as they are near the end of their life expectancy. All taxiway lighting cable will be installed in conduit.

NDA PCI 2015 Inspections

Scope: PCI Inspections

Total Estimated Cost: \$75,000

The Department of Aeronautics proposes to inspect airports to determine the pavement conditions in 2015. These airports were last inspected in 2013 and it is recommended that Pavement Condition Index (PCI) inspections be conducted every three years. The results of the pavement inspections will be incorporated into the Department's Capital Improvement Plan and will provide recommendations for federal funding of future rehabilitation projects.

Motion by Commissioner Michael Cook to approve the CIP data sheets and forward them to the FAA. Second by Commissioner Doug Vap. Roll call vote. Commissioner Dorothy Anderson abstained. All remaining commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Closed Projects

**Closed Projects
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<u>Airport</u>	<u>Original State Allocation</u>	<u>Increase in State Funds Required</u>	<u>Decrease in State Funds Required</u>
Blair 13 (Land-Petersen)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Columbus 10 (Electrical Vault)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Creighton 08 (Hangar [construction])	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Fremont 10 (Rehab & extend runway; build taxiway)	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Holdrege 10 (Land)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Nebraska City 11 (ALP)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Nebraska City 12/13 (Grade taxiway)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Scottsbluff 36 (Boarding ramp)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Valentine 07 (ALP)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Totals	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Net Decrease - \$ 0.00

State Aircraft Purchase

Director Mitchell presented the only bid received for the purchase of a new twin engine turboprop aircraft to replace the Department's Piper Cheyenne XXL. The bid was from Beechcraft

Corporation (a subsidiary of Textron) out of Wichita. The bid was for \$3,508,407. A lively and comprehensive discussion ensued. Questions were posed regarding the suitability of the aircraft, the cost of insuring the aircraft, increased costs to the Department as a whole, and the availability of hangar space on the Lincoln airport. Commissioner Wachter expressed concerns regarding the seemingly rushed nature of the purchasing process and why there was only one bid. Director Mitchell explained that the Nebraska Legislature, in LB1016, specified a new aircraft and provided \$3.6 million dollars for its purchase. The only new twin engine turboprop aircraft available, new, at that price, is the Beechcraft King Air C90GTx. The factory in Wichita manufacturing this aircraft was offering an extended warranty (7 years as opposed to the customary 5 years) provided the purchase contract was signed no later than April 30th. Although the Department had been working on a possible aircraft purchase for two years, the legislature did not approve the purchase until the end of March. Concern was also expressed that the contract negotiations conducted by the Department of Administrative Services and Beechcraft Corporation would not affect the bid price. The Commissioners were assured that negotiations are covering compliance issues with Nebraska statutes and will not affect the bid price.

Commissioner Michael Cook moved to authorize the purchase of the Beechcraft King Air C90GTx bid by the Beechcraft Corporation. Second by Commissioner Dorothy Anderson. Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Department Report

Ronnie Mitchell presented the following:

The Nebraska Legislature ended an acrimonious session on April 17 with several legislative bills of interest to our department. Foremost among them was LB1016 and LB1016A.

Senator Bob Krist introduced LB1016 on January 22 which dealt with purchasing a new aircraft for the state. There was considerable debate on the bill with several amendments culminating with LB1016A on March 4 which funded the purchase at \$3.6 million. Both bills were signed into law by Governor Heineman on March 28.

LB666 introduced by Senator Krist on January 8 was to remove funding for the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) from our department of \$25,200/year and provide \$111,000 from the General Fund. The CAP has six aircraft which they need to fly 100 hours/year or lose federal support for them and that funding was for flying expenses. The bill didn't make it through the legislative process but the Appropriations Committee included funding in the budget bill for monies from our department of an additional \$15,000 making a total of \$40,200 we must provide to the CAP during FY2015.

LB845 introduced by Senator Schilz on January 13 was to clarify language on the marking of MET towers and to make it a Class III misdemeanor for them to not be marked as described in the bill. The bill did not make it through the legislative process.

In 2010, the FAA began examining the roles General Aviation (GA) plays in our national airport system. In May of 2012 FAA released the report titled "General Aviation Airports: A National

3,874

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Asset". The "Asset" report defined four new categories for nonprimary airports based on existing activity and role; they are national, regional, local and basic. 497 of the GA airports did not fit into one of the new categories and therefore another study known as ASSET 2 was commissioned January 2013. ASSET 2 concluded there were 281 of those airports which did not meet the minimum activity levels for classification. In Nebraska, we had 12 airports which were unclassified. Unclassified airports will not be receiving future non-primary entitlement funds. The FAA has removed their project needs from the NPIAS. The NPIAS snap-shot was on April 18 so the decisions are final. The airports will still be eligible for high priority, safety related project requests. We do not anticipate any of these types of projects in Nebraska.

Unclassified airports include Alma, Auburn, Bassett, Burwell, Chappell, David City, Greeley, Hebron, Pawnee City, Rushville, Sargent, and Tecumseh. A requirement for being classified Basic is to have at least 9 based aircraft. Due to the hard work of our engineering division, when the NPIAS snap-shot was taken April 18th, 7 of the above listed airports showed 9 or more based aircraft. FAA Central Region has indicated they are requesting that FAA Headquarters in Washington D.C. reclassify those airports into the Basic category and thus reinstate their non-primary entitlement funding. Alma, Bassett, Chappell, Greeley, and Sargent will remain unclassified.

The next meeting is tentatively set for Friday, August 8, 2014 at 1:00 pm CDT in the Lincoln office.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ronnie Mitchell
Director