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STATE OF MONTANA MADISON COUNTY

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Paula McKenzie, CLERK & RECORDER

Fee \$ 0.00

To FILED..

BY Paula McKenzie

Meeting Minutes

Madison County Airport Board

Madison County Administration Building

February 9, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Hauck, Mary Oliver, Jim Frey, Scott Payne, Beau Bradley, and Brett Owens

Board Members Via Teams: Tyler Holland

Commissioner/s: None, **Secretary:** Sarah Carlson

VISITORS Preset: Troy Hunter-Ascension

VISITORS Via Teams: Colton Lauer, Madison County Attorney, and Lance Bowser-RPA

Co-Chair Beau Bradley called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

Public Comment:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Brett Owens moved to approve the January 12, 2026, minutes with corrections. Seconded by John Hauck. All voted "aye." Motion carried.

Ruby Valley Field Airport – Beau Bradley

- Ground Update

Everything looks good on the grounds.

- E-14 Construction

PRA is collaborating with them to perform construction staking. Given the favorable weather conditions, work is scheduled to commence in mid-April.

Ennis Big Sky Airport - Troy Hunter

- Update

The AWOS repair quote was excessively high; therefore, we decided to purchase the sensor but delay its installation until their next scheduled visit, as dew point measurement isn't critical for our weather observations. Ryan will come next week to simulate a lightning strike and see if they can trigger the AWOS. We're also waiting on a board replacement for the runway lights.

The NOTAM system has been updated in conjunction with the FAA, prompting Boise air traffic control to request that we contact them each time a NOTAM is issued or canceled. The new system is designed to notify them directly. This may result in approximately 18 to 30 phone calls per day. Regrettably,

there are no alternative solutions currently available. We will reach out to the FAA and other towers to determine their practices, as this situation contributes to an increased workload.

Ordered snow plow cutting edges; they will be delivered with the new snow plow truck when it arrives. That will save the airport about \$700.00 in shipping costs.

- **C-13 No Aircraft in Hangar**

The owner is actively engaged in fulfilling aviation requirements through the rental of the hangar. Their intention is to list the hangar for sale this coming spring.

- **Terry Combs**

Sent a letter with photographs demonstrating that the hangar has been cleared and is considering acquiring an additional aircraft or leasing the hangar to satisfy aviation requirements.

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES PROJECT UPDATES – Lance Bowser

- **ENNIS BIG SKY:**

- **AIP-027-2023 Snow Removal Equipment**

The Ennis snowplow is complete. The plow will be inspected on Thursday before delivery.

- **RUBY VALLEY FIELD:**

- **Runway Widening**

Awaiting the leaf-on conditions to update the instrument approach data with obstruction analysis. This task is typically performed in mid-June.

Everything has been submitted to update the width and should appear in the next publication cycle.

- **Automated Gate (Beau Bradley)**

Beau Bradley initiated a discussion about automating the gate at RVF. Lance Bowser verified its eligibility and provided information regarding FAA wildlife deterrent fencing and terminal area fencing.

- **Beacon (Scott Payne)**

Scott Payne asked Lance about the beacon's current status. Lance told the board that construction is scheduled to start in April, with South Hills handling the relocation.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY WELLS – ENNIS BIG SKY AIRPORT & RUBY VALLEY FIELD:

- Have not received approval from DEQ yet. Once DEQ approves, we will need funding for the project.

Unfinished Business:

- Insurance Requirements

The board discussed the minimum insurance requirements for commercial operators at the airport. Colton Lauer, Madison County Attorney, will review the information, and it will be on the agenda for next month's meeting.

- Michael McCann

Mary Oliver asked about the status of the Michael McCann issue. Troy Hunter told the board that Mr. McCann has not been seen for several months and that he heard Mr. McCann had traveled to South Africa.

- RTTF Rules and Regulations

John Hauck presented the board with a new draft of the RTTF Rules and regulations. The board discussed revisions to the document. Some of the revisions include EKS providing the aircraft type and registration numbers of authorized RTTF users, since EKS is responsible for monitoring the gates. The board discussed visitors and BRBOs using the gate. Troy Hunter, EKS airport manager, spoke with the FAA and was informed that the property owner may use the RTTF gate, but Airbnb guests may not because it is considered commercial. If an Airbnb has a plane, they can park the plane at the airport and shuttle over to the property.

BUDGET – Sarah Carlson

- The board reviewed the budget for January 2026, considering the potential necessity for an increase in the electric budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and discussed the addition of a propane line for the subsequent year.

CALENDAR REVIEW:

The next Airport Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 9, 2026

Administrative Building, Public Meeting Room, VC at 6:00 PM