

# YAMPA VALLEY AIRPORT COMMISSION

August 12, 2021

Meeting

## MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Yampa Valley Airport Commission (YVAC) was called to order via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 12, 2021.

### YVAC members present:

Stephen Birch -- Resident of Routt County  
Robin Crossan -- Steamboat Springs City Council member  
Les Liman -- Aviation Community  
Randy Rudasics -- Steamboat Chamber  
Larry Mashaw -- Resident of Routt County  
Chris Nichols -- Moffatt County/City of Craig  
Tim Redmond -- Routt County Commissioner  
Rob Perlman -- Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp.

### YVAC members absent:

Matt Mendisco -- Town of Hayden (Alternate)  
Jarrod Ogden -- Resident of Moffat County (Alternate)  
Ed Corriveau -- Representing the Town of Hayden

### Others present:

Kevin Booth -- YVRA  
Stacie Fain -- KSBS  
Janet Fischer -- Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp.  
Colin Bible -- Garver Engineering  
Jeremy Lee -- Mead & Hunt  
Lauren Rasmussen -- Mead & Hunt  
Devon Baummer -- Mead & Hunt  
Sam Gilpin -- GoAlpine  
Tim Ascher -- Atlantic Aviation

## I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

### 1. **Approval of Minutes -- June 16, 2021**

Janet said that the percentage cited in the first sentence of #4 should be 170% instead of 117%.

### **MOTION**

It was moved and seconded (can't identify speaker on Zoom recording) to approve the minutes of the above cited regular YVAC meeting, as amended. **The motion carried unanimously.**

## II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

### **III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were no Board member comments.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. "Full Steam Ahead" – Capital Improvements – Rob Perlman**

Rob said that since having been purchased by Alterra Mountain Company four years ago, Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp. has been working on the vision of the ski area for the future. He said that the primary projects include improvements to the base area, skier capacity, terrain, and safety. Rob presented slides and a video, and discussed the revitalization of the ski area, which will be phased over the next several years. He reviewed the buildings and year-round programming planned for the base area. Rob then discussed the planned ski mountain improvements and expansion. He reviewed the 36-month timeline for the projects. He presented photos of the construction activities currently underway. Rob acknowledged that housing and daycare are two critical needs in the community. He said that Ski Corp. would be taking an active role in addressing these needs. Regarding the projected increase in skier-days, Janet said that the number of airline seats is projected to increase this winter 34% over last winter and 100% over two years ago. In response to a question from Robin, Rob reviewed the plan to provide presentations to various groups around town to get the word out regarding the improvements.

#### **2. Runway Rehabilitation Update – KSBS**

Stacie introduced Colin Bible from Garver Engineering, the firm engaged to design the runway rehabilitation project at KSBS, which will be accomplished next summer. Colin presented a site plan and indicated the areas of pavement and lighting to be rehabilitated. He said that project will be put out to bid in three portions. All of the work will be funded 90% by the FAA, 5% by CDOT and 5% by the City. Colin noted the projects in addition to a mill and fill of the runway include a new tip-down beacon, , taxiway B, portions of taxiway P, runway and taxiway lighting, windsock and PAPI will also be funded 90% by FAA, 5 % CDOT and 5% by the City. He reviewed the phasing of the design, bidding, and construction for the project. The phasing is designed to minimize runway closures and tenant impacts. The runway closure is anticipated to be three weeks or less. In response to a question from Tim, Colin said that a contingency for materials cost increases has been considered, but has not been an issue in recent projects. Stacie said that tenants and users will be informed well in advance of the closure to allow them to make any necessary arrangements. She said that helicopters for air ambulance and firefighting will be allowed to take off and land during the closure. Stacie said that the closure will not have a major impact on the budget.

#### **3. YVAC seat and committee changes/appointments – Tim Redmond**

Kevin introduced Stephen Birch, who replaced David Franzel on the YVAC. He noted that David's seat was designated for someone without an aviation background, whereas Larry's seat was for an aviation-related person. He offered that the positions could be switched administratively such that Larry would move into David's seat, and Stephen would take Larry's seat.

### **MOTION**

Randy moved to make the above noted changes to the YVAC membership. Chris seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Kevin said that four of the current YVAC positions are scheduled to expire at the same time. He proposed adjusting the expiration on Steve's term to 2025 now and addressing the future expirations as they come up.

#### **MOTION**

Tim moved to appoint Stephen Birch to a four-year term, to expire in 2025. Robin seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **4. COVID-19/Airport, Capital, Infrastructure Update - YVRA**

Kevin stated that the details regarding the current airport projects is provided in his manager's report.

Kevin said that the passenger enplanements for 2021 are currently protected to be about 150,000, compared to approximately 90,000 in 2020. Using conservative load factors, the 2022 passenger counts are estimated to be even higher. Janet said that for the winter of 2021-22 Ski Corp. is currently projecting 217,000 arriving seats (up from 162,000 in the winter of 2020-21 and 108,000 in 2019-20). She noted that Ski Corp. tracks seats seasonally rather than by calendar year. The total passenger enplanements in the winter of 2020-21 was higher than in the previous year. Kevin noted that the addition of Southwest has accounted for much of the increase.

Kevin said that both he and Stacie are preparing for the upcoming annual capital improvement briefings with the FAA and CDOT. He said that if the growth trend continues, YVRA will again be undersized, even with the recent expansion projects. He said that he is considering a study in 2024 for a possible expansion in 2025-26. Kevin said the expansion would provide two new gates, a reconfiguration of the baggage carousel, the TSA checkpoint and the addition of a third bag belt. All of these projects are included in the master plan. Kevin said that they are currently repainting the apron to add a 9<sup>th</sup> parking spot, with the understanding that some damage will be incurred in the area scheduled for replacement next year. The parking spots will include 6 for mainline aircraft and 3 for regional aircraft.

Kevin reported that refreshing the master plan for the east end development (GA) portion of the airport is included in the CIP for next year. A third-party consultant will be contracted to assist with the update of the 2003 minimum standards and rules and regulations.

Kevin reported that the new solar panels are on site, with installation to be done in the next week or two. He noted that the YVRA solar array project is part of an 11-part regional project, partially funded by DOLA money. The YVRA project also includes back-up generators, which are not part of the larger project. The ribbon cutting for the regional project is scheduled for 19 November at YVRA.

Kevin reported that pricing on the paving of the employee parking lot is expected soon. He reviewed the project, which will also allow for a small expansion of the paid parking lot this year. A portion of the lot will include EV charging stations. A new employee parking lot will be constructed next year and the current employee parking lot will be converted entirely to paid parking.

Kevin stated that a Black Hawk helicopter, converted for firefighting use, is currently parked at HDN. He said that HDN currently has a standing contract with the USFS for firefighting aircraft. This will transition into a contract with the state, also for firefighting aircraft. The state will also utilize office space in hangar #1.

Kevin reported that Tinneal is in Hayden at a Planning Commission hearing for a proposal for a new automobile hangar project on private property near Piper Lane.

In response to a question from Tim, Kevin said that the back-up generators are neither required by the FAA, nor eligible for FAA funding.

Robin asked about the TSA equipment, staffing, and the long lines to get through. Kevin said that TSA will increase staff over the winter, but the equipment is older and slower than in some other airports. He offered that there are not many alternatives to how the security process operates. He said that the online ratings on customer service have been good. There was a discussion of the flight schedule and its bottlenecks. The schedule is often dependent on the ability of flights to connect with other flights.

#### **5. COVID-19/Airport, Capital, Infrastructure Update – KSBS**

Stacie reported that she had presented the SBS Airport and FBO budgets to the City Manager and Deputy Manager, the Finance Team and the Public Works Director. She said that she had received positive feedback. She said that she is also working on the acquisition of a back-up generator for the runway lights. She said that in discussions with L3Harris regarding implementation of the ADS-B equipment, she had negotiated for the installation of a larger generator than what would be needed to back up the equipment. The equipment and the generator will be installed this fall.

Stacie reported that since June 22<sup>nd</sup>, SBS has been a helicopter base for the USFS, with as many as five firefighting helicopters on site. Tim asked about damage from the helicopters. Stacie said that the rotor wash causes FOD that is cleaned up by the City's street cleaners. A FOD mat is budgeted for 2022.

Stacie said that July was a record-breaking year for total gallons and Jet A fuel sales. She said that she currently has 42 people on the waitlist for hangar space.

Stacie said that the fly-in and appreciation day is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup>. Robin suggested that SBS should hold an open house for the public prior to the re-opening of the airport after the runway rehabilitation next summer. Stacie will work on planning the event.

#### **6. Atlantic Aviation**

Tim Ascher reported that earlier in the summer Atlantic had experienced another fuel shortage due to multiple reasons that caused problems for all the FBOs around Colorado. He said he currently has adequate inventory, but is working with American Environmental regarding the acquisition of a 30,000 gallon storage tank. The tank cannot be installed until next March. He said he may be bringing in more fuel trucks for the coming winter if additional containment facilities can be acquired. Kevin noted that the fuel shortages are a national issue.

V. REPORTS FROM YVAC COMMITTEES

1. **Infrastructure and Finance**

Sonja Macys joined the meeting. She said that the budget presentations by Kevin and Stacie had gone very well. Kevin reviewed the new process through which the Finance Committee is presented with conceptual budgets early in the process, prior to the budgets being presented to the County and City.

Members of this committee include: Tim, Larry, Les, Sonja, Steve, Stacie, and Kevin.

2. **Community Outreach and Marketing**

Kevin reviewed the presentations given by the Marketing Committee to groups around the City and County. Presentations are ongoing and will continue to be scheduled. There was discussion of how to tailor the presentation to the particular group.

Members of this committee include: Robin, Rob, Janet, Randy, Chris, Kevin, and Stacie.

VI. MANAGERS' REPORTS – provided via email

1. **Yampa Valley Regional Airport**

Janet asked about the projections for carrier operations and enplanements for June and July 2022. Kevin said that there may be an error for July.

Kevin said that he is negotiating with Saab, the vendor of the situational awareness system, for them to provide HDN with all the data that go to the FAA regarding take-offs and landings. This will improve the accuracy of the numbers.

2. **Steamboat Springs Airport**

There were no questions.

VII. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The date is next scheduled meeting is October 14, 2021 in Steamboat at the FBO, unless another option is preferred at the time. The meeting will be in-person, with an electronic option. Sonja said she will work with City Council on nominating a new representative to YVAC.

VIII. PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER YVAC MEETING

IX. ADJOURN MEETING

The YVAC meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Minutes Approved: 10/14, 2021

By: Tim Redmond  
Tim Redmond, Chairman  
Yampa Valley Airport Commission