

# WYONIG Aeronautics DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Commission

DEPARTMENT

K. Luke Reiner

Director

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Sigsbee Duck, Chairman

MEETING MINUTES

An education session for the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) Aeronautics Commission was held on May 17 and 18, 2022. The workshop consisted of tours of four different airports in northeast Wyoming.

# The following commission members were present, constituting a quorum.

Anja Bendel, Commissioner, District 1 Steve Maier, Commissioner, District 5

Jerry Blann, Commissioner, District 2

Bill DeVore, Commissioner, District 3

Bruce McCormack, Commissioner, District 4

Randy Harrop, Commissioner, District At-large

Sigsbee Duck, Chairman, District At-large

Luke Reiner, Ex Officio, WYDOT Director

## The following WYDOT staff were present and participated in the workshop.

Brian Olsen, Aeronautics Administrator

Mariah Johnson, Air Service Development

Manager

Kimberly Chapman, Commission Secretary

Phillip Hearn, Engineering & Construction

Manager

Cheryl Bean, Planning & Programming Manager

Other attendees included: Mike Kahler, Senior Assistant Attorney General; Tim Dolan, Airport Engineer, WYDOT; DJ Wolfskill, Airport Manager, Hulett Municipal Airport; Jim Neiman, Chair, Hulett Municipal Airport Board, and other board members; Carson Rowley, T-O Engineers; Todd Chatfield, Airport Manager, Northeast Wyoming Regional Airport; Jim Martin, Chair, Johnson County Airport Board; Gerald Fink, Johnson County Airport Board, and other board members; Bruce McWhorter, Airport Manager, Johnson County Airport; and John Stopka, Airport Manager, Sheridan County Airport.

#### **Tour of Hulett Municipal Airport**

The commission and WYDOT staff were given a tour of the Hulett Municipal Airport on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. During the two-hour tour given by Messrs. Rowley and McWhorter, the group was shown and discussed challenges including runway/taxi-lane pavement condition and limited hangar space. The town of Hulett anticipates future growth and would like to expand their FBO and hangar space.

## **Tour of Northeast Wyoming Regional Airport**

The group travelled to Gillette for a tour of the Northeast Wyoming Regional Airport on Wednesday, May 18, 2022. Mr. Chatfield showed the commission the runway, hangar space, new FBO, and the terminal. He shared some of the airport's challenges and future projects.

Upon conclusion of the tour around 11:30 a.m., the group travelled to Buffalo to tour the Johnson County Airport.

# **Tour of Johnson County Airport**

Mr. Martin shared some of the airport board's hopes for future projects at the airport including additional hangar space. The group was given a tour of airport grounds, including hangars, aprons, and the recent completion of a turnout at the north end of the runway.

Upon the tour's conclusion at 3:00 p.m., the group travelled to Sheridan to tour the Sheridan County Airport.

## **Tour of Sheridan County Airport**

Mr. Stopka presented an oral history of the Sheridan County Airport and the growth experienced over the years. He also shared information on some of their more recent successes, including the addition of an overflow parking lot, which is used often due to increasing numbers of travelers. The commission also shared their congratulations and thanks to Mr. Stopka as he will be retiring as Airport Manager at the end of 2022 after 46 years of service.

The workshop concluded on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 4:45 p.m.