

Pella Airport Committee Meeting – March 26, 2021

Members Present: Rick Gritters, Eric Recker, Ted Zylstra, Sid Pinney, Matt Hutchinson

Members Absent: Tom Vander Linden **Others Present:** Shane Vande Voort, Denny Buyert

Approval of Minutes: Previous minutes reviewed and unanimously approved:

Update: Committee Member David Erickson has not yet been replaced. Committee Member Pinney is resigning from the committee, and moving to Florida

Regional Airport Update: Pinney attended 03/24/2021 meeting of Board. Prices have been established for rental rates of acquired airport land. Committee informed by Jerry Searle that 100% of land acquisition thus far will be covered by the FAA. New Appointments to replace David Barnes and Sid Pinney on the SCRA committee have been made.

Airport Managers report to the committee:

Equipment has made it through the winter season, with regular wear and tear. Airport was never closed for over 24hrs all season. Airport will be receiving a new truck from public works this year. The Pella airport is receiving social media attention, as a unique pilot destination. Continued recertification as a Cirrus Service and Training facility. AWOS is not trustworthy and needs to be addressed before it goes down and limits the use of the airport. Powered gate is operational, need to find a way to manually access for pedestrian traffic. Hangar and ramp space is in short supply. Additional gravel has been added east of larger hangar for additional parking.

New Business: Discussion of holding Flight Breakfast during annual Tulip Time Festival in May. Based on current best practices for COVID catering and FAA regulations for airports with commercial operations, it has been decided to pursue a grab and go menu with the Methodist church for the Flight Breakfast. Committee members Recker and Hutchinson will work the airport manager and Volunteers from the Methodist church to determine timing, menu, and format for event.

Motion to proceed with Tulip Time event and coordinate with City and Methodist Church brought forth by Hutchinson.

Supported by Zylstra and unanimously passed by the committee.

Airport has been approached as a location for the Balloon fest since Lake Red Rock is federal property and COVID still precludes and large gatherings and events. We do not feel it is viable without closing the runway based on the scope of event.

Additional investigation into federal funds available through COVID funding provided by stimulus packages passed in December and March.

Final Comments: None

Adjourn: Motion by Recker, support by Pinney. Passed unanimously.

Next regular meeting will take place on April 30, 2021