



**Glenwood Springs City Airport Board**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 18, 2019**  
**7:30 a.m. – Glenwood Springs Municipal Airport Office**

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**1. Attendance:**

Commissioners present: Gregg Rippy, Rich Backe, David Brown, Dave Merritt

City Staff present: Amy Helm, Airport Manager; Tanya Allen, Transportation Manager; Trent Hyatt, Senior Planner

Guests: Katie Fischer Mosquera

**2. Acceptance of March Minutes**

The Board approved the March minutes without changes or additions.

**3. Update on Airport Area Planning Study/CDOT Aeronautics Board Meeting Presentation**

Mr. Hyatt recapped his presentation regarding the Airport Scenario Planning process at the recent CDOT Aeronautics Division Board Meeting. He said CDOT Aeronautics was very interested in assisting the Airport to tell its story as part of its work highlighting the importance of general aviation in Colorado. Mr. Hyatt suggested they consider coming to Glenwood Springs City Council to explain their work and viewpoint at an appropriate point during the Airport Scenario Planning process.

In his presentation to the Aeronautics Board, Mr. Hyatt shared the scenarios as they were presented at the March meeting. Stressed that these were the initial scenarios that were responsive to market conditions. The next step would be a full cost/benefit analysis, including public opinion and community feedback. At this point he expected the cost-benefit analysis to be prepared by mid-summer. The next Project Team meeting would likely take place in September, as well as an additional public meeting and Council session. Mr. Rippy requested as much clarification and communication as possible regarding the project schedule. He noted pilots were very interested in this projects and wanted to know where/when/and to whom they needed to voice their support for the Airport to ensure their voices were heard.

Resident Katie Fischer Mosquera introduced herself and spoke strongly in favor of maintaining Flight for Life operations at the Glenwood Springs Airport. She shared the story of her husband's injury and treatment following a catastrophic brain injury and stressed how critical this option was to giving him and others the chance to survive. She noted that Valley View Hospital was not equipped to provide Level 1 trauma care and would likely never would be, which made it important to maintain the flight for life option. She added that as the City grew and changed, it would be up to the City Council to ensure that they were providing a "platform of safety" for the community to build on.

Mr. Rippy asked Mr. Hyatt if CDOT Aeronautics had mentioned regarding the status of grant funding for future cycles. Mr. Hyatt responded that it was not discussed at the meeting. The Transportation Manager said she had heard that they were preparing to offer grants to non-NPIAS airports in upcoming cycles and encouraged the Board to start thinking about what projects they might like to request when this became an option.

Mr. Merritt discussed the Rifle Airport report presented to the County Commissioners which evaluated the potential impacts of a closure of the Glenwood Airport on Rifle's operations. The report found that accommodating increased small plane users would generate some use conflicts and that improved safety would mean incurring additional costs. Mr. Hyatt added that the City had recently received a letter from County Commissioners expressing their support for Airport and requesting a \$2m contribution from the City to assist with upgrades need to accommodate these pilots at Rifle in the event of a GWS closure. This would be among the factors included in the cost/benefit analysis.

#### **4. 2019 Events**

The fly-in was scheduled for June 7-9. The Airport was planning to rent one van from Enterprise and recruit volunteer drivers to run the shuttle for the weekend. A catered dinner was planned for pilots who registered. The broader community was welcome to come out for other events including the band and the movie showing.

Plans for the drone information session were shaping up for late May-early June. The Fire Department was planning to co-host. The Center for Excellence in Rifle was also invited. The event would cover rules/regulations as well as general interest information about what drones can do and career opportunities related to drones. Board members discussed pros and cons of various dates and locations. Consensus was to work towards a June date at the Community Center

Interested persons would be meeting on May 1 to formally establish an EAA "Young Eagles" chapter. They were still searching for Board officers. A prerequisite was an active EAA membership of at least a year. A \$100 application fee associated with starting the chapter that could come from Airport funds or outside donations.

#### **5. Airport Finances**

The Transportation Manager shared some preliminary information regarding 2018 End of Year and First Quarter 2019. Final numbers were not available due to issues tracking and accounting for fuel inventory and the Finance Department's system migration. The Airport Manager explained that fuel inventory totals had been off since she began using the Site Minder system. Since noticing this discrepancy, she had been working with QT Pod to identify the reason for it, reconcile historical figures, and ensure accurate accounting going forward. A preliminary balance sheet for EOY 2018 that removed all fuel sales showed a \$6,000 non-cash loss. Based on recorded fuel sales and known profit margins of approximately \$1 (100LL) and \$2 (Jet A) suggested the Airport was on track to turn a small profit similar to the past. Mr. Rippy stressed that accurate budget figures reflecting the Airport's performance needed to be included in the GG+A report.

Mr. Brown asked whether the Airport should be planning to apply for grants for next year. The Transportation Manager said they should be prepared with preferred projects in the event money became available and Council supported an application. The Airport Manager suggested helipad improvements as one possibility. Her initial assessment was that it would cost \$17-\$22k to pave 3 new helipads at the south end of the Airport depending on the thickness of asphalt.

#### **8. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 am.