

Pella Airport Committee Meeting – March 24, 2023

Members Present: Matt Hutchinson, Rick Gritters, Jeff Bollard, Joel Weiler, Eric Recker, Trevor Nikkel

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ann Frost

Approval of Minutes: February 24, 2023 minutes reviewed.

Motion to approve Gritters, Support Recker, Passed unanimously

Discussion on several topics –

Motion to recommend Ann Frost to the Mayor for selection to the Airport Committee.

Motion made by Nikkel, Support Bollard , Passed unanimously

Airport managers' report to the committee

As reported by Shane Vande Voort

Equipment Update: The equipment has been working well overall this winter. The rotary broom is working but will need back ordered parts to be effective next year. We are urgent need for a riding mower (which is required to be provided by the airport management agreement.

FBO operations: Classic Aviation remains busy and staffing is still an issue. We are excited that a parts/facilities management specialist joined us this week. As we try to attract and retain mechanics in a competitive environment shop size becomes a major issue. Pella remains an active facility and an attractive destination and we are working hard as an FBO to meet airport user's expectations.

Hangar and ramp space: The new ramp is working wonderfully. It does take substantially more effort to plow and if we are eligible for FAA funding for an end loader I think it should be considered. Hangar space is still a major need and a viable plan for the future of the airport should include adding significant hangar space without losing airport tenants or capacity in the process.

Special Events: Planning should begin for the annual Tulip Time Flight breakfast with an emphasis on auto parking issues that occurred last year. I have applied for the special events permit.

Project and focus on improvement: Ongoing consideration of remodeling of the terminal including windows, carpet, and furniture is important.

Need for Certainty about the airport's future: We were promised to finally have some certainty on the future of the airport after the first of the year. There is a daily need to have this resolved and the airport users, aviation community, committee, manager, and FBO need to be able to make short and long term decisions with an idea of the future.

Adjourn: Motion by Nikkel, Support Gritters Passed unanimously

Next regular meeting will take place on April 28th, 2023 7am