

Pella Airport Committee Meeting – May 26, 2023

Members Present: Matt Hutchinson, Rick Gritters, Jeff Bollard, Eric Recker, Ann Frost

Members Absent: Trevor Nikkel, Joel Weiler

Others Present: Abbey Drost, Carl Drost, Emily Hawk

Approval of Minutes: April 24, 2023 minutes reviewed.

Motion to approve Recker, Support Gritters - Passed unanimously

Motion to approve Pella United Methodist Church to provide the breakfast for Tulip Time 2024 Gritters, Support Bollard – Passed unanimously

Discussion on SCRAA and Future ALP Planning.

Airport managers' report to the committee

As reported by Shane Vande Voort

Equipment Update: We are mowing nonstop to keep up with spring growth. We mow and estimated 85 acres and reliable equipment is important. We are using a smaller rental riding mower since despite repeated requests a replacement mower was not put into the budget when needed. We have had two riding mowers since 2001 and we are down to one rental since manager and committee recommendations for budget haven't been followed and equipment failed well beyond its expected life. The broom will need major repair or replacement before winter. I have broom parts on backorder and will be looking into replacement options.

FBO operations: Classic Aviation remains busy and staffing is still an issue. We are excited to have added a parts specialist and two flight instructors recently and are gearing up for a busy flying summer. Two of our line personnel graduated high school last month, one passing his private pilot checkride days before graduation – we are proud of these young men. As we try to attract and retain mechanics in a competitive environment shop size becomes a major issue. As the airport manager I'm aware and concerned that we don't have nearly as much heated shop space as comparable airports. As the FBO owner I continue to struggle with a lack of additional heated hangar space that we were promised in 2021 and have been working on since 2008. We have seen up to a 40% increase in the cost of part time labor while operating on a fixed contract-I am preparing a request for a contract adjustment and will be looking for committee report. 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 supreme court ruled the regional airport 28E agreement unconstitutional June 24, 2022. The hangar space issue at the airport is serious and needs to be done in accordance with a viable airport masterplan, on which work has not begun. As a reminder I am not asking for an FBO hangar due to FBO growth. I am asking for the same size hangar that Grinnell provided their FBO in 1988. If a long-requested 100'x100' hangar were built, Pella would still be providing less hangar space to their FBO than that provided at Newton, Grinnell, Marshalltown, and Oskaloosa.

Special Events: I was very happy with the Tulip Time Flight breakfast, and would be open to the committees input on what went well and areas for improvement. The Pella United Methodist Church has indicated that they are willing to serve again next year and I would recommend a motion to ask them to partner again on the event.

Project and focus on improvement: Again, the supreme court ruled the regional airport 28E agreement unconstitutional June 24, 2022 and this facility will have to serve Pella's aviation needs for at least the near future. I'm working on a list of urgently needed improvements including Terminal remodel (including carpet, windows, and restroom accessibility issues, shop hangar door replacement, t-hangar door repairs, concrete repair, and runway light retrofitting due to unavailable bulbs.

Adjourn: Motion by Recker, Support Gritters Passed unanimously

Next regular meeting will take place on June 30th, 2023 7am