

Meeting Summary – PAC Meeting & Site Visit – 4/3/2025

Site Visit Observations

The following items were noted during the site visit and discussed as potential development considerations:

- **On-Airport RV Park:**

The County is exploring the concept of developing an RV park near the old storage building. This could serve as a potential revenue-generating use of underutilized property.

- **SRE Building Need:**

The WWII-era storage shed is a candidate for demolition and replacement with a Snow Removal Equipment (SRE) building to support winter operations.

- **Life Flight Hangar & Deicing Needs:**

Life Flight has expressed interest in leasing or renting a large hangar for aircraft storage during operations. Additionally, there is existing demand for deicing services, raising the question of whether a deicing apron should be included as part of an FBO apron or general airside improvements.

- **Private FBO Interest:**

Tristan, the Airport manager, expressed personal interest in developing or managing a small general aviation FBO. The facility could include services such as aircraft maintenance, fueling, and deicing.

- **Development Constraints (West Hangar Area):**

The area behind the west hangars has underground piping issues and fenced BLM equipment, limiting buildable space. The extent of the developable area will need to be confirmed with lease area information from Mark H.

PAC Meeting Discussion

Mike Dane began the meeting at 2:00 PM as scheduled and facilitated a discussion with the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) members. A site visit was conducted prior to the meeting to evaluate facility needs and development opportunities. The purpose of the meeting was to identify and discuss short- and long-term airport development goals, facility requirements, and user needs.

Attendees:

- Dave Berman
- Greg (airport neighbor)
- Mark Albertson (County Commissioner)
- Eric Wolfe (BLM Representative)
- Tristan Witham (Airport Manager)
- Mike Dane (CWE)
- Mark Hagedorn (CWE)
- Elliott Szoke (CWE)
- Brandon (ODAV)
- Randy Alves (Airport User)

Airside Elements

Discussion of airside elements focused on runway width, snow and wind impacts, airfield safety, and taxiway needs:

- **Runway Width Justification:**
A PAC member asked if the area's snow load could be used to justify maintaining the runway width at 100 feet for FAA funding. A county representative stated opposition to showing a narrowed runway on the ALP.
- **Crosswind Conditions:**
Local users reported frequent winds of 50 mph or greater in the recent months prior to the PAC meeting.
- **Taxiway B Consideration:**
PAC members voiced safety concerns about eliminating Taxiway B. It was suggested that it would be preferable to reduce the runway length by 25 feet rather than lose the taxiway. If the County must fund taxiway maintenance, narrowing the runway might provide a funding trade-off.

Landside Elements

Discussion of landside facilities centered around future hangar development, firefighting operations, and support infrastructure:

- **BLM/USFS Firefighting Operations:**
A BLM/USFS representative indicated that 2–4 aircraft often depart together for fire

response missions. Occasionally, 4–8 flights occur in close succession.

A joint-use FBO would need to accommodate 10–30 personnel during fire season.

Design references from other facilities are available. SEAT operations should be located near fire retardant tanks, while heli attack operations are more flexible.

- **Large Helicopter Parking Needs:**

Both the BLM/USFS representative and Tristan emphasized the need for dedicated helicopter parking for large rotorcraft (e.g., Chinooks), located near the heli attack FBO. These aircraft do not require proximity to fuel facilities due to mobile fuel service but must be separated from fixed-wing aircraft due to rotor wash concerns.

The meeting concluded upon the completion of the presentation and the consulting team remained available for additional questions and discussion after the meeting.

Next Steps and Considerations

- Confirm lease area boundaries and development constraints behind the west hangars with Mark H.
- Assess feasibility and siting for SRE building and RV park.
- Evaluate runway width and taxiway trade-offs in terms of FAA funding and operational needs.
- Consider adding deicing apron and large helicopter parking to the facility requirements list.
- Coordinate with BLM/USFS to gather reference plans for firefighting support facilities.
- Need to talk to SHPO about demolishing WWII era buildings.