

Meet Jim White, Airport Commissioner

Appointed by the City of Helena to a Three-Year Term

The City of Helena appointed Jim White to a three-year term on the Helena Regional Airport Authority. Colonel Jim White spent ten years on active duty in the US Navy, where he trained as a pilot. Jim then worked for Northwest Airlines as a 727 pilot before returning to Montana and working for three and half years as a pilot for the State of Montana. Jim was employed by for US West for five years, and recently retired after working 22 years with the State of Montana doing IT support. Jim served for 20 years as an officer in the Montana Air National Guard. He is active in community organizations, including volunteering his time to Habitat for Humanity.



October Sunrise at the Helena Regional Airport

Airline Boardings

Ron Mercer, Airport Director

The passenger movements at Helena continue to exceed last year's traffic, but are not as high as originally projected when United Airlines announced that they were adding two roundtrips per day from Helena to their Denver hub. Passenger enplanements are about 10% ahead of last year, but the original projections were based on 15% to 18% increases.

The recent economic issues have certainly reduced airline travel in all of the Montana markets, particularly in the leisure travel segment. The HRAA has been considering a proposal to offer the airlines, and all airport users, a reduction in landing fees, but without new revenues, the Authority has not been able to put this proposal in place.

Station One Project

Diamond Construction has begun to erect the steel superstructure for the new equipment storage bay at the Airport's Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting and Maintenance Building.

In addition to the new large equipment storage bay, plans call for a new two-bay fire building,

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NOVEMBER 2008

AIRPORT AUTHORITY SCHEDULE

18 Airport Authority Meeting – 11:30 am

ROCKY MOUNTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES
TRAINING CENTER SCHEDULE

10 Defensive Driving Course

Station One Project – continued from Page One

expanded office and training areas and a full remodel of the existing building.

This project, a \$4 million expansion and remodel effort, is primarily funded by FAA Airport Improvement Program funds. This is the first major work on this building since it was originally constructed in 1975.

The Helena Regional Airport Authority is a political subdivision of the State of Montana. The Airport is owned and operated by the Helena Regional Airport Authority. The Authority is made up of a seven-member Board that establishes the rules and operating procedures under which the Airport operates. The City of Helena appoints three of the Authority Commissioners, Lewis & Clark County appoints three, and the seventh seat is a joint City/County appointment. The Airport Director is responsible for the day-to-day-operation and overall management of the Airport.

The Helena Regional Airport Authority receives no local tax funding or mills, but does receive federal and state grant funds for Airport Improvement Program projects as approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. The Airport operates much like a private business in the sense that it funds its own operational and maintenance needs through the revenues generated from various tenants and activities. The Helena Regional Airport has developed both aeronautical and non-aeronautical based revenues through the variety of activities that operate on the Airport. Many of these organizations and independent businesses contribute a large taxable income base to the City of Helena in addition to providing revenue for the maintenance and operation of the Airport.

US Forest Service Building Remodeling & Expansion

The Helena Regional Airport Authority recently interviewed contracting firms for the US Forest Service Remodeling & Expansion Project. The selection was based on 50% plans and specifications, as this is a “design build” effort. The design build process allows the contractor to participate in the final design in an effort to reduce the project costs and/or to ensure the building construction is well coordinated.

Dick Anderson Construction was selected as the contractor/construction management firm for the project. The total project cost – including professional fees and site work, is approximately \$3.5 million.

