

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman Moscow Regional Airport Board Meeting Date: 3/25/2020

Observer Reporting: Lennis Boyer Watts

Members Present: Glen Johnson (Pullman mayor), Bill Lambert (Moscow mayor), Tony Bean (Executive Director), Paul Kimmel, Jon Kimberling, Ron Wachter, Dan Ewart, Brian Hemingway. **This meeting was held remotely due to COVID 19.** Some members were present at the airport, others remotely.

Members Absent: Stacy Pearson

Others Present (e.g., media, public) Cherri Gentry (Airport Administration), Michol Ann Jensen (City of Pullman), Kelly Brown (Airport Legal Counsel), Kevin Mulcaster (Mead Hunt), Brett Siweck (Mead Hunt), Alex Aegerter, Airport operations, Lennis Boyer Watts (LWV observer)

Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:

Items discussed:

- Budget** – anticipating less revenue due to COVID -19. Tony discussed multiple ways they are working on decreasing expenditures. February was a very good month so there is some cushion.
- **Number of flights** is down to 2-3/day from 5. Average number of passengers per day is 40-60. Most of these are foreign students who are not booking return flights. Alaska Airlines decides the day before which flights will go.
- Construction of new runway** will be starting on April 6. Will be working on erosion control initially. Then storm drainage.
- COVID-19 Updates** – decrease in flights and passengers as noted above. The airport is working hard on wiping everything down, employing social distancing on the plane seating, medical grade HEPA filters in place.
- Air service meeting update** – Tony related that these went very well. The team was able to talk to several major airlines about servicing our airport. Alaska considering a Pullman to Portland flight. Continuing to pursue nonstop to Boise. Alaska may consider if there is a revenue guarantee. This would be a seasonal flight (no summer flights). Still talking to United about a nonstop to Denver – this would likely be pushed off until 2022 in light of COVID-19).
- Tony has received questions about closing the airport during this time. He notes that only the FAA can order it to close.**

Process & Protocol:

The board was well prepared and courteous.