

# Sioux Falls Regional Airport Authority

## Special Session Board Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.

Members Present: Dave Nelson, Lon Stroschein, Kent Cutler.

Members Present via Video Conference: Eric Ellefson.

Staff Present: Dan Letellier, Richard King and Kristin Elgersma.

Guests Present: Tom Schauer – Mead & Hunt Engineers.

Chairman Dave Nelson called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

1. Discussion/presentation on the potential development of a reliever general aviation airport operated by the Sioux Falls Regional Airport Authority.

Director Letellier summarized the brief discussion the Board had at the January meeting regarding the possibility of the Airport Authority developing a reliever airport to allow for continued growth of the general aviation community. Tom Schauer, Senior Aviation Planner with Mead & Hunt Engineers and former Airport's District Office Manager for the FAA was on-hand to provide a more detailed discussion on the necessary path for the development of the new airport.

Mr. Schauer reviewed with the Board the limited areas on Joe Foss Field for future development, especially for private hangars utilized by general aviation owners/aircraft. As the community grows and the needs for more terminal space for commercial aviation as well as cargo operators, alternatives for general aviation should be considered.

Mr. Schauer provided a history of his involvement with Lincoln County and Canton on the development of a new combined airport in 2007 before it ran into issues with land owners in the identified site. He also presented examples of small reliever airports in the Minneapolis area which provide alternatives for general aviation aircraft rather than utilize Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. These airports are owned and operated by the Minneapolis Airport Commission. A similar structure could be utilized for Sioux Falls with the Airport Authority owning and operating both Sioux Falls Regional Airport and a small general aviation airport.

Potential areas for a new airport were discussed as well as the potential for the Lincoln County Airport and possibility Canton Airport moving operations to this new airport. Mr. Schauer provided a timeline for development of a new airport which would likely take a minimum of 7-10 years. Discussions with the City, Minnehaha and Lincoln County would be the first step in the potential development of a new airport.

The Commissioners had several questions for Mr. Schauer including the timing of development, cost and coordination with other government entities. Questions were

also raised on how the development of a new airport would benefit Sioux Falls Regional and how it would be funded.

The Board agreed that preliminary discussions should take place with the City and both Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties to get their input on this concept and if they would be interested in more detailed discussions. Director Letellier will begin these informal discussions and report back to the Board to determine the next steps.

Kent Cutler moved to adjourn at 2:10 p.m. Lon Stroschein seconded. Motion Carried.

---

Date

---

Secretary

**Next Board Meeting – March 24, 2022 at 12:00pm.**