

The regular monthly meeting of the Gallatin Airport Authority was held July 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Airport Customs and Operations Building. Board members present were Ted Mathis, Carl Lehrkind, Karen Stelmak, Kendall Switzer, and Ted Barkley. Also present were Brian Sprenger - CEO, Aaron Collins – CCO, Chris Pomeroy - COO, and Troy Watling - CFO.

Ted Mathis, Board Chairman, welcomed everyone to the regular meeting of the Gallatin Airport Authority Board and called the meeting to order.

1. Review and approve minutes of regular meeting held June 12, 2025

Mr. Mathis asked if everyone had received their copy of the minutes and if they had any corrections or additions. There were none.

MOTION: Mr. Barkley moved approval of the amended minutes of the regular meeting held June 12, 2025. Mr. Switzer seconded the motion, and all board members voted aye. The motion carried.

2. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

3. Election of Officers

MOTION: Mr. Barkley moved to approve the following slate of officers:

Chair: Carl Lehrkind, IV

Vice Chair: Kendall Switzer

Secretary: Karen Stelmak

Ms. Stelmak seconded the motion. All board members voted aye. The motion carried.

4. Report of Audit Review Process – Dane Hancock

Mr. Hancock with Rudd & Company thanked the board for being selected as the audit team for the next 3 years. Mr. Hancock said they are off to a good start. Over the next few weeks, they will be planning preliminary work. They will be performing field work towards the end of August and the beginning of September. Financial statements should be completed mid to late October and audit results will be presented at the November meeting. Mr. Hancock, along with 2 other managers and 1 staff member, will be working on the audit. There have not been any significant standard updates. If anything, significant is discovered throughout the process, it will be communicated to the board.

5. Consider request by Bridger Solutions International to terminate the existing commercial Ground Leases for parcels EU11, EU12 (non-commercial), SE1 and SE2, and to enter into new Commercial and Non-Commercial Ground Leases for those same parcels with SRAI Bozeman, LLC. Additionally, approve the sublease of the properties to Bridger Solutions International.

Mr. Sprenger said Bridger Aerospace wants to sell the assets, and they have an investment company interested in taking on those leases and leasing them back.

James Muchmore, Chief Legal Officer for Bridger Aerospace, said they are taking advantage of growth and appreciation of their assets. It will be a sale and lease back. Their partners SRAI are well known nationally. Bridger is not moving their operations. They are in the process of growing and leveraging some of the success they have had.

MOTION: Ms. Stelmak moved to approve the request by Bozeman Solutions International, LLC to terminate existing leases and approve the request by SRAI Bozeman, LLC to enter into new agreements for EU11, EU12, SE1 and SE2 and the approval to execute the GAA Estoppel Certificate. Mr. Lehrkind seconded the motion, and all board members voted aye. The motion carried.

6. Consider request by Bridger Solutions International to transfer the Commercial Ground Leases for parcel SE3 to SRAI Bozeman, LLC.

Mr. Sprenger said this parcel has a developmental lease that is being transferred. This requires them to begin construction this year and a hangar is to be approved no later than December 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Lehrkind moved to approve the request by Bridger Solutions International to transfer the Commercial Ground Leases for parcel SE3 to SRAI Bozeman, LLC. Mr. Barkley seconded the motion, and all board members voted aye. The motion carried.

7. Consider request by ACW, LLC to enter into a 10-year non-commercial land lease for hangar #68

Mr. Sprenger said this is the end of the term for this hangar. The hangar is in generally good condition and the rent is current.

Mr. Collins confirmed for Mr. Mathis there is an aircraft in the hangar but did not recall the specifics.

MOTION: Mr. Switzer moved to approve the request by ACW, LLC to enter into a 10-year non-commercial land lease for hangar #68. Ms. Stelmak seconded the motion, and all board members voted aye. The motion carried.

8. Consider request by JLG POOL, LLC to transfer the non-commercial land lease on hangars 145-153 to Fly MT HANGARS, LLC

Mr. Sprenger said the hangars are in good condition, minor repairs are needed, and the rent is current. There are aircraft in all the hangars that we are aware of.

MOTION: Mr. Lehrkind moved to approve the request by JLG POOL, LLC to transfer the non-commercial land lease on hangars 145-153 to Fly MT HANGARS, LLC. Mr. Switzer seconded the motion, and all board members voted aye. The motion carried.

9. Consider request by Centerline Holdings, LLC, to transfer the non-commercial land lease on hangar 49 to VWD Aviation, LLC

Mr. Sprenger said this hangar has been transferred many times recently. The sides needed to be painted and that was completed. The hangar is in good condition and the rent is current.

MOTION: Mr. Barkley moved to approve the request by Centerline Holdings, LLC, to transfer the non-commercial land lease on hangar 49 to VWD Aviation, LLC. Mr. Lehrkind seconded the motion, and all board members voted aye. The motion carried.

10. Airport Business Report – Aaron Collins

Total operations for June were 10,557, up 2.5% but down for the year by 5.7%. Rolling 12-month operations are 117,304. There were 624 corporate landings over 12,500 lbs., down 8.6% but up 17.7% YTD. There were 767 corporate landings over 9,000 lbs. which is down 7% but up 17.7% YTD. There were 18 customs clearances this June compared to 12 last June. Total revenue enplanements were 147,201 up 7% and up 3.2% YTD. Rolling 12-month enplanements were 1,340,656.

The BZN Market concession achieved a record-breaking day on Sunday, July 6 with sales totaling \$26,400, which surpassed their previous record by 12%. Days for rental cars have increased by 12.5% since last year and a 9% increase in revenue over last year.

Mr. Collins said they are doing leadership and volunteer staff days on the weekends to help with queuing and gate utilization among other things. They have installed an airline service desk across from gate B2. This is to help clear up gates when there is a flight cancellation or interruption.

As a contingency measure, they developed a strategy for ground boarding. There is a ground boarding gate counter at B7. If need be, we can board 2 planes simultaneously from one gate.

Total deplanements were up 8.6% at 160,391 and is up 2.9% YTD. Airline landings were up 13.6% with 1,277 landings and is down 2.6% YTD. The load factor was 80.4%. Fuel dispensed for May was 1,211,893 gallons. That is a 16% decrease, it is 30.5% increase YTD.

We anticipate more records in July.

11. Airport Operations Report – Chris Pomeroy

Mr. Pomeroy, COO, started with a project summary. The major elements of the runway project have been completed. Some of the primary elements were an additional 325 feet of runway and the new taxiway connections and configurations. The next phase is the Navigation Aid upgrades that are starting now. We have redundancy and do not expect significant impacts.

The A6 connector was milled and inlayed on June 25. The far west end of the air carrier apron has new asphalt which will support and facilitate snow removal this winter.

A new Maintenance Technician, John Watts, starts next Monday. Rob Cousins will be starting as an Operations Specialist at the end of July.

The ARFF maintenance facility construction is going well. Expecting to get a certificate of occupancy early September or late August. The Glycol Farm project is underway.

We have had no major security related matters over the past month. We have implemented a Monday morning debrief to go over weekend activity. Standard wait times at security last weekend were 14-16 minutes and PreCheck was less than 10.

On July 5 we had our first Operation Readiness meeting with senior management and airlines. Some of the items reviewed were weather, inbound schedules, and impacts on gate utilization to ensure smooth operations. Next week is Google week. We are coordinating with FBO's on aircraft.

Mr. Pomeroy heads to Washington D.C. next week. Mr. Pomeroy was reappointed to another term as the Vice Chair on the United States Contract Tower Association. Mr. Pomeroy will also be meeting with the Congressional Delegation and Program Manager from the FAA to find out about our transition from a contract tower to a FAA tower.

12. Airport CEO Report – Brian Sprenger

Mr. Sprenger reported that overnight cars for June were 93% of the previous year and July month to date is about 94%. June concessions were 113% and month to date for July are 119%. Month to date for July passengers is up 10%. On Sunday, July 6 there were 7,763 enplaned passengers. That is a 100% load factor and 22% higher than any prior record on enplanements. Last weekend there were 30,000 inbound and outbound passengers in 2 days which is just under the population of Kalispell. If we annualized Sunday, it would equate to 2.8 million enplanements. Our terminal is constrained in the baggage and rental car departments, but we are handling it.

We have become one of the primary diversion points in the region. One flight arrived when Alaska had no staff, so our staff handled it along with emergency responders. The aircraft was on the ground for less than 1 hour. We don't know the outcome. More airlines are choosing Bozeman due to their knowledge of our capability.

Mr. Watling and Mr. Collins are working on the TIFIA loan.

On July 17 the RFP evaluation committee on Concessions will meet. We have 5 responses from capable companies. The term is 7 years with some discretionary extensions.

Mr. Sprenger complimented the entire team. Everyone is working hard to handle this significant increase in passengers. We have 5 more critical weekends.

13. Consider bills and approve for payment

The bills were reviewed and detailed by Mr. Sprenger. Many were sent out in advance for review. Another list was provided for the larger ones being approved at this meeting.

Our total staff is 83 currently. There is 1 maintenance and 1 custodial position open.

MOTION: Ms. Stelmak moved to approve the bills for payment. Mr. Lehrkind seconded the motion. All board members voted aye. The motion carried.

A tour of the fire station was offered after the meeting.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.



Carl Lehrkind, IV , Board Chairman