



## Airport Authority Turns Seven

Pat Nuxoll, Airport Authority Board Treasurer remembers the first weeks after the new airport organization was born. “We weren’t even sure how we were going to make payroll,” he said, laughing. “The airport manager deposited twenty dollars out of his pocket into the bank to open an account. He’ll probably want it back, someday.”

That was seven years ago. October 1, 2010, after executing a transition plan, the airport went from a City/County-owned facility administered by the City to the organization we know today as the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport Authority.

“The only way we survived, financially,” said Bill McCann, Jr., first chairman, “was to save ourselves into prosperity. We were low on bureaucracy and high on customer service.”

The new organization found its niche by making decisions based upon the Airport’s role in the region. Here’s a look back at

some of the accomplishments.



Year one, the main customer parking lot was rehabilitated—the first time any maintenance had ever been performed on the pavement. The “new” parking lot was soon illuminated front-to-back by a modern, energy efficient lighting system. And to the literal relief of customers, a rest room was added to the airline passenger waiting lounge. Small things?

“Sure,” recalled Bill McCann, Jr., “But we decided we’d better be in the people

*(Continued on Page 3)*



### Inside this Issue

Say It Again, Sam?.....2  
Expanding Passenger Lounge..2  
Airport Auction.....3  
Ambassadors & Musicians.....3  
New Life, Old Friend.....4

## Jim Finley Elected Authority Chair

During its regular meeting October 18th, the Airport Authority Board elected Jim Finley its chairman.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Jim earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Forest Science, then continued with graduate work at Penn State. He was a member of the faculty

research team at Penn State and the University of Nevada – Reno for over ten years.

Jim served throughout the years on numerous community and national organizations at various levels of leadership. He’s a private pilot with an instrument rating and served as the Commander of the Nez Perce County Sheriff’s Air Posse.



## Say Again, Sam?

*"We need better airline service!"*

It's the most common theme I've heard during my first 5 months here.

*Are we listening?*

Yes. In fact, that was one of the reasons the Board asked me to come to Lewiston.

*Are we doing something about it?*

Yes.

I know...you've heard it before. And we've all heard the one about Ipswich Memorial Airport improving their airline connections by calling their congressman. And Beetlejuice International convinced Bob's Aviation Garage Door company to run a shuttle between Dusty Town and Abnormal, Nebraska. Odd, neither one lasted for much more than a few weeks.

That's an example of the rubber hitting the runway. There's an old saying in the industry, "When you've seen one airport, you've seen one airport," and that's an absolute truism for air service development. What succeeds in one

market may not work in others. There just aren't many airlines and there are a lot of communities vying for their service. To be successful, you must convince the carrier it can make more money in your market than elsewhere. And maybe the answer to air service needs lies in the carriers already serving the market. To convince them to change means convincing them the change will make business sense.

But we're on it!

Last month the Airport Authority Board entered into an agreement with HubPoint Strategic Advisors, an air service development consultant to help us. How?

1. By helping us **understand our market!** We all have anecdotal evidence of services that work and those that don't. But Hubpoint is studying the data. They're listening to community leaders, business owners, and travelers.
2. By helping us **understand the airlines**, those that currently serving our community and those that don't. And making sure airlines understand us!
3. By reminding us to **support the ser**



**vice we have.** If we don't use it, we stand **to lose it** to some other community that will support it.

The successful communities are those that build a team, and so it is with improving airline service. We'll keep you informed.

In the meantime, remember we're on the Web at [goLWS.com](http://goLWS.com), and we've got Facebook, too.

Happy Landings...

*-SAM*

## Expanded Airline Passenger Waiting Lounge in the Wings!

Crowded waiting might not be too bad until you get a little too close to Uncle Floyd whose Old Spice wore off a couple months ago. And he wants your phone number!

Crowded terminals aren't just for major airports anymore. And when the Authority Board allocated resources to address its problem, Commissioners knew the solution wasn't going to be easy: Can't expand to the west; can't expand to the east.

"Why not go up," asked Airport Manager Stephanie Morgan.

Dubbed "Phase IV" of the airport's improved security experience, the project calls for opening up portions of the terminal building's second floor as a secure passenger waiting lounge.

Turns out the concept was first discussed by the Authority Board its second year of service,

but couldn't quite figure out how to make it happen within budgetary restraints. Now, with a little luck and the installation of a staircase the former "bar"—which hasn't seen Fog Cutter poured in years—will be converted to a lounge without the drinks. That is unless you include soft ones and coffee. Add to the mix free Wi-Fi, computer and iPad power stations, a restroom, background music, and enough elbow room to keep your distance from Floyd.

Elderly customers and those with disabilities will find more elbow room too, with the same amenities as for those who want to climb the stairs.



## Turning Seven (Continued from Page 1)

business.”

Not all facility improvements were small. Within a couple years, the Authority tackled a total reconstruction of the airport’s main “jet” runway 26-08. They saved enough to seal pavement cracks throughout the movement area, rebuilt the Northwest General Aviation Apron, then created and adopted a 20-year master plan, a blueprint for the future.



Still mindful of the past, however, Board members traveled to annual conferences and made field trips to regional workshops, creating and mending relationships with the Federal, FAA, state, and area airport organizations.

Working with the Port of Lewiston, the Authority made possible the installation of Fiber-Optic cable throughout the airport for technology-reliant companies like LifeFlight.

Airfield operations and maintenance efforts have become more effective AND efficient, instead of gulping down huge amounts of man-hours. Maintenance crews have applied modern agricultural techniques to the hundreds of acres of airfield turf, nearly eradicating broad-leaf

and noxious weeds. Mowing operations have been cut almost in half and wildlife problems reduced.

Airfield operations, too, have benefited by the streamlined organizational structure. Acquisition of a high-speed sweeper last year means not only faster snow control response, but will soon translate to almost snow and ice free runways and taxiways. The availability of airfield information has vastly improved through the implementation of the Automated Notice-to-Airmen system, computerized runway condition testing, and a huge increase in



personnel training to comply with the newest FAA standards.

From the first meeting to the most recent, the Authority focused on fiscal and administrative transparency. Annual audits testify with zero-discrepancy reports; Commissioners and citizens receive updated financial statements every month, with a breakdown of expenses, revenue, and cash-flow.

Improved credibility with the Federal Aviation Administration helped secure funding for a new Oshkosh Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) vehicle to replace the aging E-One truck. FAA grants

will help pay for the construction of a new Operations and Maintenance Building, to house ARFF and snow control equipment (stay tuned for information on ground breaking).

Board conduct was key to the Authority hiring a professional airport manager, and Stephanie Morgan brings a whole new level of energy and insight to the organization’s needs with a focus on air service development. Applying proven leadership and common business sense, she’s implementing the Board’s vision. The airline passenger screening

check-point has been rearranged and the screening room enlarged. Additional

equipment was secured to reduce passenger “pat-downs” and reduce wait-time.

The terminal building itself got much-needed makeover with a new color scheme and new seating upholstery. Northwest Media and FastSigns will be giving a new, modern, local look to the internal advertising program, and a system for displaying and promoting local artists will not only add a touch of class, it will show visitors from all over the world what the region is all about.

Happy seventh anniversary? Or maybe just a taste of good things to come!

## Airport Surplus Property Auction

Have you been looking for that special gift for the special person in your life? A birthday? Christmas gift?

Look no further. The Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport is having an auction.

Think about times your husband hinted how much he'd like a World War 1 vintage army helmet and gas mask. Guys! Did you notice your wife gazing, dreaming of

all the things she could do with her very own sandblasting cabinet. Remember when your Aunt Mabel blurted out how much she wanted a well-loved, diesel-powered generator/lighting plant? And imagine the smile on grandma's face when she sees a heavy-duty hydraulic rotary broom with its own pony motor under the tree? There's bar equipment (rails, a keg-erator, and sinks), a load of computers, printers, and copiers.

There's a generator. And furniture. And a genuine, inflatable ball chair.

You can get a list of all the stuff for sale and the bidding rules by stopping by the airport administration office at 406 Burrell Ave. Sealed bids will be accepted through noon on October 31st. Don't wait. There aren't many shopping days left until Christmas!

## Attention: Holiday Musicians and Ambassadors

WANTED: Volunteers to serve as airport holiday musicians and ambassadors. The pay is lousy, the worksite crowded, and the working conditions leave a lot to be desired.

*Who in the world would answer a call like that?*

We're hoping there's a few. That's

all we need...a few talented people (and goodness knows this author isn't) to share a couple hours a day during holiday



flight arrivals and departures.

It's a stressful time of the year, and your talent could go a long way toward relieving some of that traveler-stress. So...Pianists! Carolers! Lend us your ears, voices, and time.

Now...if your only musical inclination is the tuba, there's still an opportunity for you. Especially if you have a cheerful, outgoing personality, you enjoy meeting new people, you're familiar with the region, and you'd like the challenge of representing the Lewis-Clark Valley and creating a good first impression to people from all over the country. All over the world!

Consider becoming an LWS Airport Ambassador. The pay and working conditions are the same as those for the musicians.

*So...exactly what does an "ambassador" do?*

If you volunteer to be an LWS Airport Ambassador, you'll be one of the first to greet people who are preparing to board a flight to go

home. Or arriving to visit friends and relatives they haven't seen for a while. You're there to offer them a smile or to answer a million questions. Like...where can I go to eat? Does the LC Valley have any motels? Where can I get ground transportation? I need to have my hair trimmed? Can you help? You don't need to give haircuts, but you can be the first impression first-time visitors have of our community.

I'm sure your last question before volunteering will be...what kind of benefit package goes with this job?

You might just change someone's day from "rotten" to "crummy". Or if you're really good, you might just make it a great day. And you'll walk away knowing you've contributed. You might even feel like a part of a team that makes a difference. Interested? Call Stephanie Morgan at (208) 746-4471 or drop her an email at:

Stephanie@golws.com

## New Life for an Old Friend?

The last edition of the *LWS Airport Report* sadly carried the news that FAA regulations might signal the end of the 70-some-year-old Tetrahedron's presence on the movement area.

Not so fast, was Airport Manager Stephanie Morgan's response.

"It's a rare piece of Airport history," she said, "and some aviators feel it still serves a useful purpose."

The Tetrahedron's history is not total clear; it may or may not have been installed before the wind sock. What is clear, is that it's so big it obscures portions of the segmented circle and the traffic pattern indicators,

the flush-mounted concrete forms that help aviators find the wind sock and identify the appropriate side of the runways for multiple landings and takeoffs.

"We're going to take another look at the arrangement," said Stephanie. "We need to rebuild the segmented circle and traffic pattern indicators so they're more visible from the air. So while the engineers are looking at the best way to do that, we've asked them to see if the answer to new FAA standards doesn't have to mean removing the old."

Stay tuned!



The Tetrahedron

**The Lewiston-Nez Perce  
County Regional Airport  
Authority**

406 Burrell Avenue  
Suite 301  
Lewiston, ID 83501

Phone: (208) 746-4471  
Fax: (208) 798-0591

LEWISTON-NEZ PERCE COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT



**Feedback.....**

It isn't something we put up with. The Authority Board and Staff appreciate input and suggestions—not just about this newsletter, but about ways we can improve our airport and the services we provide.

**LEWISTON-NEZ PERCE COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT  
AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

William V. McCann, Jr., Chairman

Jim Finley, Vice Chairman

Pat Nuxoll, Treasurer

Verl Long, Secretary

Emmett McCormick, Commissioner

**Meetings**

For up-to-date information on schedules, check the Public Meeting section of the Lewiston Morning Tribune.

