

APPENDIX B

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

Sustainability is a core value of Southwest Wyoming Regional Airport (RKS or Airport). As the Master Plan evaluates opportunities and challenges over the next 20 years, integration of sustainability and resilience considerations leads to greater efficiencies, improved performance, and risk reduction at the Airport.

SUSTAINABILITY DEFINITION

The first step in integrating sustainability into the Master Plan was to define what “sustainability” means relative to RKS’s priorities and needs. Although there are many commonly used definitions and varying understandings of sustainability, RKS selected the Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA) definition as the one that resonates most with the Airport.

“A holistic approach to managing an airport to ensure the integrity of the Economic viability, Operational efficiency, Natural Resource Conservation, and Social responsibility of the Airport.”

RKS adopted the ACI-NA definition but has its own interpretation of what each pillar means. Economic viability relates to receiving returns on investments (ROIs), realizing cost savings, diversifying revenue streams, supporting the local economy, and monetizing new opportunities. Operational efficiency is the foundation of running an effective airport and is critical to provide a productive and healthy environment for employees and passengers, while also increasing economic stability. Natural Resource Conservation means preserving the local environment including water resources, land, and biodiversity. Social responsibility, financial stability, professional growth means prioritizing the best interests of all airport stakeholders - including tenants, employees, passengers, and the community - when making decisions.

SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS AREAS

Various sustainability categories were reviewed to determine priorities of the Airport. These focus areas will guide the sustainability planning process and will be used as screening criteria when evaluating alternatives. With the understanding that sustainability encompasses economic, operational, environmental, and social considerations, the following categories were chosen as key sustainability focus areas for RKS:

- Airport Finance
- Water
- Energy
- Adjacent Land Use Compatibility

Airport Finance relates to RKS’s overall financial resiliency, ensuring stable employment, and contributing to and helping advance the local economy. The Airport will continue to prioritize upgrading systems, improving

efficiencies, and integrating practices that are sustainable while supporting the bottom line. Sustainable airport finance in the Master Plan will align with the Airport's Capital Plan.

Energy was selected as a key focus area as it relates to improving efficiencies, enhancing resilience (i.e., emergency preparedness, opportunities for energy generation) and improving air quality. The Airport will prioritize installing more reliable energy sources and assessing new opportunities to monetize energy generation.

Water is integral to ensure that RKS can operate successfully. Stakeholders, operations, and codes require reliable access to potable water. Currently, the Airport lacks direct access to water and relies on having it trucked on-site and then stored for both operational use and as a fire suppressant (as required by code). Improving access to a dependable water source will be a key focus moving forward.

Potential impacts of airport activity on the surrounding community, as well as the potential impacts of the surrounding community on the airport are significant considerations. By prioritizing **Adjacent Land Use Compatibility**, RKS will collaborate and engage with neighboring landowners including BLM, Rock Springs Grazing Association, and the State of Wyoming on existing and future projects. The Airport understands that collaborating with nearby landowners will create mutually beneficial outcomes.

These Sustainability Focus Categories were identified as areas in which the Airport can make the greatest advances in sustainability related to future airport development. Therefore, these areas will help guide the planning process for the Master Plan and be incorporated into the screening criteria that are used to compare development alternatives and make decisions about future development.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

FAA and other funding sources will play a key role in development at RKS. Understanding that many current funding opportunities require integration of sustainability measures into projects, RKS embraces the opportunity to weave sustainability into its long-term planning with an added benefit of improving its competitive position in attaining grant funding.

Expanding energy infrastructure and capacity is another important consideration as there is a critical need to improve electric resilience and redundancy. The current indirect line serving the airport is dated and will need to be updated. Collaborating with the local utility to upgrade these systems will allow RKS to develop. There is potential for future opportunities to expand on-site energy generation and use, making it important to be prepared for that prospect.

As previously stated, RKS does not have direct access to potable or non-potable water. When making future decisions, the Airport will continue to collaborate with local stakeholders to get a reliable water supply. A specific amount of water must be stored on site to be used as fire suppressant per fire code; it is important to note that this stored water becomes contaminated over time, failing EPA drinking water standards. As the Airport continues to expand and grow more water will be needed on-site for both fire management and traditional, potable, use. Other potential projects related to direct air capture, sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), hydrogen, and additional snow storage areas will also require more water for cooling purposes.

SUSTAINABILITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RKS has already successfully integrated various sustainable practices into its operations. Below is a list of the sustainability initiatives accomplished thus far.

- First airport in Wyoming to install solar array and is currently using this energy generation to power 50% of RKS operations.
- Awarded grant funding from Rocky Mountain Power to integrate solar into Sweetwater Aviation FBO.
- Recently replaced HVAC and Boiler Systems in the airport terminal.
- Upgraded facility, airfield, and street lighting to energy efficient LEDs.
- Installed a building automation system.
- Installed low-flow water fixtures.
- Recycles and aims to divert waste from landfill.
- Designed the new SRE, terminal, and airfield lighting vault to accommodate ground and/or canopy solar in the future.

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