



NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM WAMA'S PRESIDENT BY GREG CULLEN

Greetings everyone and Happy New Year!

I remember walking down the hallway while attending the 2018 Wisconsin Aviation Conference. This was my first conference after being hired at the Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport six months prior. I was looking for the first general session when I was approached by a very friendly man who turned out to be WAMA President Charles Sweet. He congratulated me on being elected as a new director on the WAMA board. I didn't even know I was in the running. When I realized it wasn't a joke, and that Charles was genuine, I recall saying, "Thanks, I guess." Now, three and a half years later, I get the opportunity to write this letter as your president. I was very fortunate for the chance to serve then and even more so now.

The WAMA board works for you. By design, it's made up of a cross-section of professionals from around the state representing various airport sizes. Board members volunteer their time and talent to work on the issues that are important to airport managers, consultants, and others in the aviation industry. The board uses a strategic approach to resolve industry concerns, with limited financial resources. We are currently researching airport worker compensation rates, state statutes that limit wildlife control at airports, and staying abreast of the latest updates about the much-publicized PFAS issue.

We also act as a liaison with federal and state aviation offices. These organizations frequently reach out to WAMA first when needing to communicate quickly with airports. Additionally, WAMA provides an excellent networking opportunity. Even though every airport is unique, airport managers have similar issues. WAMA board members may be able to offer insight and recommend a solution or make the connection with another member that experienced a similar problem.

Your membership in our organization helps WAMA financially and provides a voice. WAMA's voice gets stronger as membership increases. Collectively, we can ensure Wisconsin airports remain compliant and provide a safe environment for air transportation.

Please take a few minutes soon to renew your 2022 membership.

If you or someone at your airport has an issue that WAMA may be able to help with, please don't hesitate to contact me or another board member.

FAA ANNOUNCES FIRST-YEAR BIL FUNDING

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently announced the first round of funding – \$2.89 billion – made available by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to over 3,000 airports around the nation. This money comes from the Airport Infrastructure Grant Program, providing \$15 billion over five years.

Wisconsin airports were allocated \$39.8 million in the first year. See an interactive map and funding for individual airports [HERE](#).

According to the announcement, "The FAA encourages applicants to prioritize projects that increase airport safety, equity and sustainability."

FAA Webinar

In late December, the FAA hosted a webinar that gave an overview of FAA BIL funding and answered participant questions. If you missed this presentation, a webinar recording is available [HERE](#).

BIL INCLUDES MONEY FOR PFAS

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) invests more than \$50 billion through Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water infrastructure programs. As part of providing safe drinking water and clean water for communities, the BIL delivers \$10

billion through three grant programs to address emerging contaminants, including PFAS.

According to the [National Law Review](#), "The Act recently signed into law establishes three new grant programs that provide funding for various PFAS issues of concern. First, \$5 billion was set aside through the Safe Drinking Water Act to assist rural and disadvantaged communities with purchasing 'point-of-entry or point-of-use filters and filtration systems . . . for the removal of contaminants of concern [from drinking water].' Second, \$4 billion was set aside through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to assist water utilities with their efforts to remove PFAS from drinking water sources. Third, \$1 billion is set aside to address PFAS in wastewater discharge concerns, more specifically to help treatment facilities in rural and tribal communities manage PFAS wastewater issues."

The programs provide funding to communities as grants or principal forgiveness loans. State match is not required.

Wisconsin's first-year allotment from the State Revolving Fund for emerging contaminant programs is slightly more than \$15 million. See the EPA BIL fact sheet [HERE](#) and the state break down [HERE](#).

2022 WISCONSIN AVIATION CONFERENCE MOVES TO OCT. 3-5

We heard you! Our post-WAC 65 survey showed a clear preference for a Monday conference start. So, update your calendars – WAC 66 in Eau Claire will be **Monday, Oct. 3 - Wednesday, Oct. 5**.

Keep the Ideas Coming

We are already working on WAC 66. If you have a topic idea or speaker recommendation, please email it to director@wiama.org.

See you in Eau Claire!

AIRPORTS IN THE NEWS

If your airport has been in the news and you would like us to share the story, email a link to: director@wiama.org.

[Airline travel in Wisconsin picks up but not to pre-pandemic levels](#), Wisconsin Public Radio, Jan. 4

[Traffic continues to climb at Dane County Regional Airport during holiday travel months](#), Wisconsin State Journal, Jan. 4

[Program at Milwaukee airport will help people with unseen disabilities get to their flights](#), Wisconsin Public Radio, Dec. 31

[Appleton airport to improve commercial runway with grant](#), Fox 11, Dec. 22

[Rhineland Oneida County Airport among those in Wisconsin to receive additional funding](#), WXPR, Dec. 20

[FAA to award nearly \\$40 million to Wisconsin airports](#), CBS 58 – MKE, Dec. 16

[Central Wisconsin Airport's new runway is finished](#), WSAU-TV, Dec. 13

[Gulfstream, Outagamie County finish expanding Appleton airport hangar designed to finish building planes](#), Post Crescent, Dec. 9

[Maybe 'forever chemicals' don't have to last forever: Study at Dane Co. Airport using microbes aims to naturally destroy PFAS](#), Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (subscription required), Dec. 6

[Blue Angels set to take flight for Chippewa Valley's 'Air Show'](#), WIProud.com, Nov. 19

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