

Governor Schweitzer recently announced the selection of three new members to serve on the Montana Transportation Commission and five new members to serve on the Montana Board of Aeronautics.

The Transportation Commission is a quasi-judicial board consisting of five members, each of whom is appointed by the Governor for a four-year term. The Commission's major duties are:

- Selection/prioritization of projects for construction, maintenance and so forth.
- Awarding of monthly contracts.
- Allocation of Federal-aid highway funds.
- Designation of highways by system.
- Designation of special speed zones and maximum speeds on bridges and overpasses.
- Designation of access control highways or facilities.
- Resolution of outdoor advertising appeals.
- Abandonment of highway right of way.

Bill Kennedy, Billings, will chair the Transportation Commission. Kennedy, a Yellowstone County Commissioner since 1993, currently serves as president of the Montana Association of Counties. He received an undergraduate degree in secondary education at Montana State University-Bozeman and a master's degree in personnel and guidance at Eastern Montana College in Billings. Kennedy taught at Colstrip, Billings Catholic Schools and was parish administrator at St. Thomas Church in Billings before becoming director of Even Start Family Literacy Program for Billings School District 2. Kennedy will serve as the District 5 member of the Commission, as well as chair.

Deb Kottel, Great Falls, is dean of the College of Graduate Studies for the University of Great Falls. She received a bachelor's degree from Loyola College, Chicago, Illinois and a J.D. degree from DePaul University School of Law. She serves as chair of the Great Falls International Airport Authority Board and on the executive committee for the Great Falls Development Authority. Kottel served two terms in the legislature (1995-1999). Kottel will serve as the District 3 member of the Commission.

Rick Griffith, Butte, is the airport manager for Bert Mooney Airport, a post he's held since 1991. Griffith was the reclamation coordinator and construction manager for Butte Silver Bow, and served as a Butte Silver Bow Commissioner and city councilman. He was an estimator/office manager for Dugdale Construction from 1975-1984. He's an officer of the Montana Airport Managers Association (past president) and the Butte Local Development Association (president), and past chair of the Port of Montana and the Urban Revitalization Agency. Griffith will serve as the District 2 member of the Commission.

The Aeronautics Board is a quasi-judicial board consisting of nine members, each appointed by the Governor for a four-year term. The Board acts in an advisory capacity to the department and has statutory authority over allocation of airport development loan and grant funds and pavement preservation grant funds. The nine-members represent

various facets of the industry and at least one member of the board shall be an attorney licensed to practice law in this state.

Tricia McKenna, Bozeman, will chair the Aeronautics Board. She attended Eastern Montana College and Montana State University. McKenna is a registered life and health insurance agent and is a partner with her husband in John McKenna and Associates. McKenna is a member of the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce. She's active in state, regional and national branches of the Special Olympics, including current service as Chair of the North American Leadership Council for Special Olympics. McKenna will serve on the Board as a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

William E. Hunt, Jr., is the city attorney for Shelby, Montana along with having a private law practice. He received his bachelor's in English literature from the University of Montana in 1990 and his law degree from the UM Law School in 1998. Hunt is a member of the Montana Army National Guard and currently holds the rank of captain and commander of the 3669th General Support Maintenance Company in Helena, Missoula, Dillon, and Culbertson. Hunt will serve as the local government representative and the attorney-member.

Fred Leistiko, is the manager of the Kalispell City Airport and chair of the Flathead County 911 administrative board and member of the state 911 advisory council. Leistiko received a bachelor's degree from Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, and participated in international business graduate studies at the University of Akron. He served two combat tours in Viet Nam, where he received the Purple Heart and numerous other commendations. Leistiko was an air traffic controller before transferring to the Army National Guard, where he achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel before retiring from the military. Leistiko will serve as the airport manager representative on the board.

Roger Lincoln, Gildford, and his wife own a crop spraying business, as well as farms in Hill and Toole Counties. Lincoln has logged 10,000 pilot hours, 6,000 of those as an aerial applicator. He served 10 years as a board member of First Bank in Havre, and currently serves on the Farm Service Agency county committee for Hill County. Lincoln is a past member of the Havre City/County Airport Board, and holds membership in the Montana Pilot's Association, the Montana Aerial Applicators Association, and the National Aerial Applicators Association. Lincoln will serve as the aerial applicator representative on the board.

Ted Schye, Fort Peck, obtained his pilot's license when he was a senior in high school. A fixed wing air ambulance pilot in Glasgow, he is the chief pilot and director of operations for the Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital air ambulance -the smallest hospital in the country to have such a service. Schye graduated from the University of Montana, and taught school before beginning a 25-year career in farming. Schye is an aviation educator and member of the Montana Pilots Association and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. He served in the Montana Legislature. Schye will serve on the board as a representative of the Montana Pilots Association.

I look forward to working with these remarkable individuals and to their contributions to Montana's transportation system.

Serving you with Pride,  
Jim Lynch