

Longmont hires new airport manager

Slayter has spent more than 20 years in aviation

Vince Winkel, TimesCall Staff Writer | 2/09/2015

The wait is over at Vance Brand Municipal Airport.

The city of Longmont announced Monday that David Slayter will start as airport manager March 16.

Slayter, 44, has been the executive director of the Houma-Terrebonne Airport Commission in Houma, La., since 2009. In his 20-plus years in the aviation industry, Slayter has spent nine years in airport management. He also has worked for Louisiana's State Aviation Division as an aviation program manager, including frequent interaction with the Federal Aviation Administration. He was involved in re-writing state administrative code and revised statutes pertaining to aviation, and he is experienced in aircraft noise abatement procedures.



David Slayter (Courtesy photo)

"My family and I are looking forward to our move to Longmont," Slayter said in a statement. "I am excited about the opportunity to help develop and improve the airport. Airports are an important gateway and economic engine to communities. I appreciate the opportunity to ensure that Vance Brand runs smoothly, is a good neighbor, and welcomes people and businesses to the community. I look forward to serving the community that will be our new home."

City officials are confident that their selection, which was the unanimous choice of the interview panel, is a good one.

"Vance Brand is an important economic asset to the community, and the city is committed to continuous improvement of the investments we have at the airport," said Shawn Lewis, Longmont assistant city manager. "We're confident that David's energy and experience will help improve the airport facilities, community relations and overall operations at Vance Brand."

Challenges waiting

Slayter enters the hangar with several challenges waiting on the runway.

"I want the new airport manager to develop the airport as an economic development opportunity," said Jeff Moore, the Longmont City Council member who represents that ward of the city. "Take control of the operations at the airport and run it like a business, **implement a policy of community outreach that has not existed in the past, be part of the conversation about noise issues, and direct the out of control Airport Advisory Board to focus on their responsibilities.**"

Moore went on to say that "Mile Hi is the number one issue at the airport," referring to the Mile Hi Skydiving Center based at Vance Brand.

A number of residents have complained about the low-flying aircraft, the increase in noise, and the free landing area that Mile Hi uses for its skydivers.

Longmont Airport Advisory Board Chairman Donald Dolce said he thinks that Slayter will have other priorities.

"There's a host of things," he said. "He needs to establish the communications with the FAA and meet them. David also needs to meet with all our tenants.

"He needs to start working with CDOT on airport fund allocations coming our way," Dolce said. "They misplaced \$12 million for airports in the state that we really need."

The Colorado Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics originally had planned to have \$15 million in a grant program in 2015, according to a Denver Post report. But the division failed to track a drop in fuel prices, which fund the program, leaving only \$3 million available for the state's airports.

Slayter holds the Certified Member designation from the American Association of Airport Executives and a Bachelor of Science degree in professional aviation with a minor in aviation management from Louisiana Tech University. He also holds an instrument rated commercial pilot certificate.

He replaces Tim Barth, who was the Longmont Vance Brand Municipal Airport manager for nearly 19 years. Barth was recently hired as the director of aviation for Cheyenne Regional Airport in Cheyenne, Wyo.

Members of the panel that chose the new airport director are Dolce, Lewis, AAB Vice Chairman Dale VanZant, AAB City Council liaison Gabe Santos, Elite Aviation owner Julie Meyers, Airport Hangar Association President Anita Bragg, Airport Hangar Association member Marc Arnold, city assistant finance director Molly Kostelecky and city manager Harold Dominguez.

**Copied 3/6/2016 from: http://www.timescall.com/longmont-local-news/ci_27494209/longmont-hires-new-airport-manager
(Highlights, footnotes and minor edits may have been added by aiREFORM)**