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Airport director takes new job

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June 15, 2013 11:30 pm • By TIM JAMISON, tim.jamison@wfcourier.com

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WATERLOO. Iowa --- The director of the Waterloo Regional Airport has departed for Arizona.

Brad Hagen resigned after 11 years to become the supervisor of airport projects and operations at Mesa Falcon Field Airport, a larger airfield in the Phoenix area.

The 48-year-old Iowa native said the decision was "bittersweet."

"Waterloo and the Cedar Valley is a wonderful place to work and live, and Mayor (Buck) Clark, the City Council, the airport board and all the staff are wonderful people," Hagen said. "But I've wanted to move to Arizona for a long time because of the weather and lifestyle, and my two sons live in Arizona."

Clark said he was sorry to see Hagen leave.

"We will miss him; he did a great job," Clark said. "We are just starting the process to look for a new director."

Hagen came to the Waterloo Regional Airport in April 2002 as its fourth director in five years and with a \$4 million terminal renovation underway.

"We did invest nearly \$30 million in the airport during my 11 years," he said. "It's state of the art and I think Waterloo, with that infrastructure, is in good shape moving forward."

The airport, which had been getting between \$150,000 to \$200,000 in an annual property tax subsidy, became self-sufficient midway through Hagen's tenure.

While the struggle to improve commercial air service is an issue for many facilities like Waterloo,



Waterloo Regional Airport director Brad Hagen.

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Hagen noted the airport upgraded to regional jets though Northwest Airlines in 2003.

Delta Airlines replaced Northwest and was eventually replaced by American Airlines in 2012.

City Council members are expected Monday to approve starting the search for a new director.

Tags Waterloo Regional Airport, Brad Hagan, Mesa Falcon Field Airport, Buck Clark

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