

**3CU AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 20, 2026 – 4:30 PM
CABLE UNION AIRPORT TERMINAL**

MINUTES

Call to Order

Chairman Rowe called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Attendance: Chairman Doug Rowe, Commissioner Jeff Hurula, Jeff Smits, Airport Manager Mike Nichols, Treasurer Dale Kruse, and Secretary Holly Holly.

Virtual: Commissioner Ray Ebert

Absent: Commissioners Joe Garceau, Bob Rasmussen

Guests

Sue Rosa, Bayfield County

Michael Choate & Elizabeth Holland

Virtual: Brad Volker, Cooper Engineering

Joe Hickey, Blake Bristow - Hangar Owner

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Hurula to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Ebert. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes – March 16, 2026

Motion by Commissioner Smits to approve minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Hurula. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Expenditures: \$ 4,567.79

Receipts: \$ 2,782.65 (\$135.84, 5 fuel sales, 26.98 gal)

Balance on 03/31/26: \$114,437.61

Treasurer Kruse reported the parking payment for the American Birkebeiner has been received. The annual renewal rate will be verified prior to paying the Chamber of Commerce invoice. He is also anticipating an invoice of \$1,200 from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for their study, finding no adverse effect for the building of hangars on the Phase II Hangar Development site.

Motion by Commissioner Hurula to accept the treasurer's report and file it for audit, seconded by Commissioner Smits. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager's Report

Mr. Nichols reported he will be repairing damaged sod (from snow plowing). The Town of Drummond may have a Harley Rake or Commissioner Rasmussen has loaned one in the past. Commissioner Hurula and Manager Nichols will be repairing the beacon in the next few weeks. A fuel delivery is expected within the next month, and fuel prices will be adjusted according to the invoiced amount. Chairman Rowe asked Manager Nichols to research local airport hangar lease rates as a discussion point for 2027.

OLD BUSINESS

Update BOA/Environmental Assessment (EA)

– **Brad Volker, Cooper Engineering, Colin Davidson, BOA Project Manager**

Mr. Davidson absent (paternity leave). Chairman Rowe reported monthly meetings have been scheduled to assist Mr. Davidson in being familiarized with the work done on the EA for the past seven years. At the most recent meeting (April 2, 2026), Matt Malicki, BOA, determined a consultant selection process would be required to conduct a 12-month traffic survey to justify the proposed runway length. This determination drastically changes the process of the EA. It would extend the EA process by at least a year and a half and significantly increase its cost. The entire commission strongly objects. Chairman Rowe has contacted State Representative Chanz Green and BOA Director Karla Knorr to express his concerns. Rep. Green understands the time and financial concerns and is willing to act on behalf of the airport if needed. Ms. Knorr has committed to attending the next meeting on April 29, 2026, at 10 a.m. and said information is being gathered, and hopefully, there will be a clear path to proceed at that meeting. Chairman Rowe has requested the directive driving this change and an explanation of which agency is driving this new directive, the FAA or BOA. To date, no response has been received from Mr. Malicki. Mr. Volker expressed that Cooper Engineering supports the airport's objection. Finally, Chairman Rowe addressed this at a virtual Airport Sponsor Workshop, where Gary Wilson, FAA Chicago Airport District Office (ADO), was in attendance. Mr. Wilson committed to investigating what changed the course of direction.

SRE Building Update - Brad Volker, Cooper Engineering, Colin Davidson, BOA

Mr. Volker reported the SRE building's preliminary interior and exterior inspection has been accomplished. Several outdoor projects remain, including fine grading, replacing black dirt, creating swales on the east side of the building, seeding, fertilizing, mulching, and the propane line needs to be buried. When road bans are lifted, these projects will be completed as the contractor's schedule allows. There is one minor shrinkage crack in the concrete floor (not structural). Northwest Builders will check on a product to seal the crack (if needed). Westlund

Architect noted that the air handling runs continuously to keep the system simple. Prior to equipment being moved into the building, several things need to be cleaned up, including foam overspray, openings in the bifold door corners (to prevent air/mice from getting in), and weather stripping. The commission is happy with how the building turned out.

NEW BUSINESS

Bayfield County Board - Sue Rosa

No updates at this time. Chairman Rowe expressed appreciation for Ms. Rosa attending Airport Commission meetings on a regular basis and facilitating communication with Bayfield County.

Correspondence

None at this time.

2026 Airport Sponsor Workshop Update

Commissioner Smits, Manager Nichols, Sue Rosa, and Chairman Rowe attended a virtual call with BOA and FAA regarding a 5-year capital improvements plan and funding. Priorities include the tractor (scheduled for fall 2026 with spring 2027 delivery), replacing the beacon, and replacing the fueling station in the next three to five years. It is also noted that significant funds will need to be available for completing the EA.

FAA Directed NEPA Study for Phase II Hangars

UW-Milwaukee completed a memo satisfying the NEPA Study requirements, and an invoice for \$1,200 is expected. Mallory Palmer, BOA, is hopeful the NEPA study is expected to be finalized in the next 2 months.

Discussion and Possible Action – Phase II Electricity Installation Cost Settlement with Hangar Owners

A hangar owner questioned why this had not been completed. As a reminder, Chairman Rowe explained again that the BOA intended to require each Phase II hangar owner to conduct additional environmental studies estimated to cost \$6,000-\$8,000. The Commission stepped up to object on the grounds this requirement was redundant and wasteful. The Commission spent many hours and enlisted the support of legislators to bring reasonableness to the issue. Senator Baldwin's office brokered an acceptable solution. This is not over, but as of today, the collective cost has been brought down to \$1,200. The pool of dollars remaining from the electrical installation charge is being used to cover this and any other currently unforeseen costs. The reimbursement to date stands at \$331 per hangar owner.

Discussion of Telemark Road Easement–Matt Pobloske

Carla Smith, attorney for the Town of Drummond, will contact Chairman Rowe to discuss.

Discussion and Possible Action – Second Courtesy Car Donation

Manager Nichols will call Performance Auto this week to have the car evaluated.

Rezoning and Land Ownership

No update.

Future Airport Events

The Hamburger Fly-In is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2026.

Tree Clearing

Commissioner Smits and Manager Nichols will talk with the Town of Cable Road Crew to have them bulldoze the cleared area to minimize new growth.

2026 Tractor Acquisition Discussion

No update at this time.

Items for Next Agenda:

Bayfield County Board

Correspondence

Discussion for Event Parking Rates for 2026/2027

Discussion on updating airport hangar lease rates

Telemark Rd Easement/Matt Pobloske Requesting Approval from the Airport

Discussion & Possible Action-Phase II Electricity Installation Cost Settlement to Hangar Owners

Rezoning & Land Ownership

Future Airport Events

Donated 2nd Courtesy Car

2026 Tractor Acquisition Discussion

Next Meeting:

Monday, May 11, 2026, at the Airport Terminal at 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Chairman Rowe declared the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.