

**3CU AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 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 Ray Ebert, Jeff Smits, Airport Manager Mike Nichols, Treasurer Dale Kruse, and Secretary Holly Holly.

Virtual: Commissioners Bob Rasmussen, Joe Garceau

Absent: Commissioner Jeff Hurula

Guests

Virtual: Brad Volker, Cooper Engineering; Pat Rogers, Hangar Owner
Sue Rosa, Bayfield County

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments

Pat Rogers inquired as to the best way of removing tree limbs that are hanging over his hangar. Commissioners agreed that removing these limbs is beyond the capability of the Gordon Correctional Crew, but hangar owners are welcome to cut encroaching trees as they see fit.

Approval of Minutes – June 15, 2026

Motion by Commissioner Rasmussen to approve minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Ebert. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Expenditures:	\$ 25,486.89
Receipts:	\$ 36,969.42 (\$3,060.30, 14 fuel sales, 492 gal)
Balance on 06/30/26:	\$ 97,539.09

Treasurer Kruse reported there is one parking invoice to be mailed. Chairman Rowe was made aware of changes to the high school race which may eliminate their need for parking at the airport this year.

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

Manager's Report

Manager Nichols reported the Young Eagles event is scheduled for Saturday, August 1st, at 10am (weather permitting), he will distribute flyers. If event is canceled due to weather, it will not be rescheduled as other local airports also host this event.

An email will be sent to organize gutter installation on the terminal building when the weather is cooler. Northland John Deere was called to clear a fuel clog in the tractor. The Toro mower had a leak in the fuel line which he was able to repair; however, replacement parts are no longer available for this mower. According to Mr. Davidson, replacing the riding lawn mower with BOA funds is unlikely due to the planned mower attachment for the new tractor. Chairman Rowe asked Commissioner Garceau and Manager Nichols to begin a search for a replacement for the Toro zero turn mower with a 9' or 10' deck. The Toro is 32 years old.

Manager Nichols will begin sourcing tools and equipment for the SRE building. A backpack blower was purchased last week and Commissioner Ebert has a possible source for pallet racking.

Thank you to Chris Longfellow for donating \$100.

OLD BUSINESS

Update BOA/Environmental Assessment (EA)

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

Mr. Davidson was absent. Mr. Davidson informed Chairman Rowe that he received, but has not reviewed, correspondence on the NEPA study from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The 30-day response period has passed, so he believes it should be settled.

According to Mr. Volker, Cooper Engineering is compiling a proposal for Karla Knorr, BOA, to address the errors and omissions claim against Cooper Engineer. While they believe it is unreasonable, they have hired Westwood Consulting to assist with the EA. The BOA will review the proposal in the coming weeks.

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

Mr. Volker reported Collin Nelson, Northwest Builders Superintendent, is no longer with the company and Bailey Schlager has assumed his responsibilities. The grading sub-contractor has been contacted to oversee the area that did not grow well so the project can be closed out. The door codes have been difficult to reprogram and may need to be replaced by Northwest Builders if not resolved. Service doors will be repainted; Manager Nichols will work with Bailey for correct color selection. Electronic copies of all project information including warranties will be given to Manager Nichols. Cooper Engineering has recommended the BOA

pay Northwest Builders for the project, but withhold \$5,000 until grass seeding is sufficient.

Chairman Rowe has had continued discussions with Karla Knorr, BOA, Brad Volker, Cooper Engineering, as well as Gary Wilson, Acting Chicago FAA Manager of the Chicago ADO, and Kim Porter, Acting Assistant FAA Manager of the Chicago ADO, regarding the runway length issue which is further delaying the EA and has the potential to greatly increase the cost to 3CU and taxpayers. All parties are in agreement that an in-person meeting would be beneficial to discuss the history of the situation and find a clear path forward. Chairman Rowe is drafting a letter to federal legislators representing Wisconsin to request their assistance in resolving the issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Bayfield County Board - Sue Rosa

Ms. Rosa confirmed Bayfield County has received the budget request from 3CU. She also shared the county is working to improve the EMS system as most communities do not have a dependable service such as Great Divide. Chairman Rowe expressed the important role 3CU plays in helicopter transports.

Correspondence

Commissioner Smits reported the insurance policy expires in February 2027, and the ideal time to go to market would be this December. Commissioner Ebert suggested contacting Steve Bruss for insight, which Commissioner Smits will do.

St. Croix Scenic Riverway requested that 3CU contact them before making property changes near the waterway. Chairman Rowe thanked Mr. Volker for handling this on previous projects.

FAA Directed NEPA Study for Phase II Hangars

UW-Milwaukee completed a memo satisfying the NEPA Study requirements; it is in the final phase, which requires final approval within 30 days from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). According to Collin Davidson, the 30-day period is past and therefore should be complete.

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

The cost settlement is directly tied to the NEPA Study and will be settled once the study is complete. It is estimated that a refund of \$331 will be issued to each Phase II hangar owner, subject to any further unforeseen, related costs.

Discussion of Airport Hangar Lease Rates

Discussion to increase the annual lease rate to \$600 with periodic review. Manager Nichols reported Hayward is now charging \$540 annually for a 60' x 60' hangar (\$.15/sq ft of hangar space). The decision was made to charge a flat rate versus by square foot as all hangar lots are the same size. Chairman Rowe will draft an informational letter for Manager Nichols to send to all hangar owners for their input and make a decision on new rates next month.

Discussion of Telemark Road Easement–Matt Pobloske

Carla Smith, attorney for the Town of Drummond, has spoken with Dana Rasmussen, Mr. Pobloske's attorney, and they are working out the easement details. Ms. Smith wanted to verify that all towns support her decision in this matter as she only represents the Town of Drummond. Commissioners from each town support her decision.

Discussion and Possible Action – Second Courtesy Car Donation

Manager Nichols reported the windshield is most likely not sealed correctly and that is causing the leak making it unwise to detail the interior if not repaired. Discussion to consider selling the vehicle.

Rezoning and Land Ownership

No update.

Hamburger Fly-In Recap

Thank you to all who helped organize the event Kay Rowe, Heidi Ebert, Brenda Smits, and Holly Holly. Despite inclement weather which kept airplanes grounded, \$667 was received in donations. The Eberts offered the use of a 10'x20' awning for future events. There was discussion if the airport should acquire its own tables and chairs for these events so as to not have to continue to borrow from the Lions and towns.

Future Airport Events

Young Eagles, August 1st, 10 am. Annual Pancake Fly-In, Saturday, September 26th, 8 am.

Tree Clearing

Gordon Correctional Facility crew is scheduled to do tree clearing in late October.

2026 Tractor Acquisition Discussion

Collin Davidson and Chairman Rowe discussed the status of the tractor acquisition. Mr. Davidson confirmed the tractor purchase is on track for this fall with expected delivery next spring. This includes snow removal equipment initially and mower attachments at a later date.

Items for Next Agenda:

Bayfield County Board

Correspondence

Airport Insurance Discussion

Discussion & Possible Action - 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, August 17, 2026, at the Airport Terminal at 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Chairman Rowe declared the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.