

**CABLE UNION AIRPORT
AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2025 – 4:30 PM
CABLE UNION AIRPORT**

MINUTES

Call to Order

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

Attendance: Chairman Doug Rowe, Commissioners Ray Ebert, Joe Garceau, Jeff Hurula, Bob Rasmussen, Jeff Smits, Airport Manager Mike Nichols, Treasurer Dale Kruse, Secretary Holly Holly. Absent: Commissioner Garceau

Guests

Sue Rosa, Bayfield County Board
Elizabeth Holland & Michael Choate
Pat Rogers
Kevin Podvin
Skype: Lora Boley, Joe Hickey, Blake Bristow, Steve Bruss, Brad Volker

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments

Michael Choate made the Commission aware of an incident on July 5, 2025, on McNaught Rd near the Telemark biathlon range, where he heard rapid gunfire. He submitted a written statement.

Pat Rogers shared a concern about people driving through the grass instead of using the taxiway to access the new hangar area. Mr. Nichols will place orange cones in the area and speak with builders about where to drive.

Joe Hickey reported that trees at the south end of the runway are close to being a problem, some of which are not on airport property. Chairman Rowe explained that the EA is critical because it addresses issues impacting the airport on property owned by others.

Blake Bristow offered to assist with IT questions from the Airport Commission.

Chairman Rowe thanked the Boley's for hosting a hangar party the day of the Pancake Fly In.

Approval of Minutes – September 15, 2025

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

Treasurer's Report

Expenditures:	\$ 10,238.01
Receipts:	\$ 12,792.14 (\$ 2,733.27, 23 fuel sales, \$70 in fees)
Balance on 08/30/25:	\$ 98,717.99

Treasurer Kruse reported the first interest deposit from the LGIP fund was \$128. World Fuel is now processing through the savings account. NICA and Chequamegon paid parking fees from the September races. No outstanding receipts are expected. Commissioner Rasmussen will follow up on the invoice from Lakewood's for the Pancake Fly-In supplies.

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

Manager's Report

Mr. Nichols reported Norvado started running the fiber optic duct work and should be complete by the end of October.

A Dell computer has been ordered through Norvado, a printer purchased for the manager's office, and Microsoft Office software will be purchased for an annual cost of \$150.

The courtesy car's fuel pump was replaced by Rocky's Service in Cable. Nels Hanson has donated a 2005 Dodge Durango to be used as a second courtesy car, which is being looked at by Rocky's Service for a potential moisture issue and any necessary mechanical work. Further discussion in November.

Chairman Rowe is asking hangar owners to close the gates if they notice they have been left open for security reasons.

OLD BUSINESS

Update BOA/Environmental Assessment (EA)

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

BOA Update – Mr. Davidson absent and did not submit a report.

EA Update – Mr. Volker reported the BOA is responsible for it at this point, and Chairman Rowe will continue to reach out to Mr. Davidson for details.

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

Mr. Volker reported Northwest Builders still does not have an official contract, but they have ordered materials. A virtual preconstruction meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 10/23/25, at 10 am. Chairman Rowe and Manager Nichols will attend, but Mr. Volker has invited anyone interested to attend. The contract is expected by 10/24/25, and if received, construction will begin the week of 10/27/25.

Phase II Hangar Development - Brad Volker, Cooper Engineering

Mr. Volker reported his part of the project is complete.

NEW BUSINESS

Bayfield County Board - Sue Rosa

The county has received the airport budget request, and Ms. Rosa does not foresee any issues. The county budget will be voted on at the November meeting.

Correspondence

None

FAA Directed NEPA Study for Phase II Hangars

Chairman Rowe reported that after the last meeting, he received an email from the BOA, Mr. Davidson, and Mallory Palmer (Environmental Department), stating they would take the lead on the NEPA requirements for Phase II hangars, and a consultant is not needed at this time. Chairman Rowe is cautiously optimistic by this development. This is positive for 3CU due to several of the required environmental reviews were done only one year ago, and the BOA is now considering those to be still valid. The FAA has some discretion in the period of validity of these environmental reviews. Currently, it is generally considered to be three years. The Commission is hoping this can be resolved within a few months and at no cost to the Phase II hangar owners. When this is resolved, hangar owners are encouraged to build a hangar within the next two years before the current studies expire. Failure to do so may require them to be responsible for the cost of new studies.

The Wisconsin Airport Managers' Association (WAMA) held a meeting to address this issue. Approximately 30 airports were in attendance, many are experiencing the same challenges. Chairman Rowe expressed disappointment that the attorney WAMA brought to speak on the FAA's interpretation of the directive in question recommended it would be easier for airports and WAMA to just play along instead of working to correct the issue.

With the final cost numbers for the Phase II Development project getting clearer, there are currently stands to be a \$440 refund for each Phase II hangar owner from the \$5,000 they put toward the electrical installation. The Commission is holding on to this money until the NEPA issue is completely settled to cover any associated and unforeseen costs.

Discussion and Possible Action – Extend Time for Phase II Hangar Owners to Begin Building

The current contract states that building a new hangar begins within 365 days of signing the lease, but due to existing NEPA issues, Chairman Rowe is requesting an additional 365 days be extended to accommodate for the uncertainty created by the unanticipated additional NEPA review requirements.

Motion made by Commissioner Hurula to allow an additional 365 days to the contract stipulation of starting hangar construction within 365 days of signing the lease, seconded by Commissioner Ebert, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion 2026 Budget

Budget requests have been received by Bayfield County, the Towns of Cable, Namakagon, and Drummond in the amount of \$12,000 for annual operating fees and \$5,000 for the contingency fund. Commissioner Smits volunteered to assist Chairman Rowe and Treasurer Kruse in preparing the 2026 budget.

Discussion and Possible Action – Electrical Building Insurance Coverage Review

Commissioner Smits provided a copy of the vehicle insurance cards for the courtesy car and reported the following coverages were effective in July:

- Electrical Building Coverage - \$100,000 (increased premium by \$354)
- Runway Light Coverage - \$67,200 (new coverage-premium is \$321)

Future Airport Events - Pancake Fly-In Review

There was great weather for the event, and 21 planes flew in. Thank you to those who helped with the event, including Dede Marty, Jeff & Brenda Smits, Doug & Kay Rowe, Mike Nichols, Bob Rasmussen, and Holly Holly.

Discussion for Deer Culling on Airport Property

Mr. Nichols spoke with Eddie Shay, DNR, about deer culling at the airport. He reported the Bayfield Sheriff's Department Sharp Shooter team has been designated to cull up to eight deer from November 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026. Andy Runice, of Bayfield County, will develop culling procedures. Meat will be donated to those requesting from the DNR. The sheriff will contact the DNR, who will inform the recipient how to claim the meat. The DNR stipulates that 50% of tags are required to be filled within the first 45 days and 80% by the end of the calendar year in order for future tags to be considered. If these stipulations are met, additional tags can be made available. Manager Nichols will make pilots aware that culling efforts are underway. Joe Hickey offered to cover meat processing fees up to five deer if it is going to a needy family in the Cable area.

Discussion of Telemark Road Easement–Matt Pobloske

Chairman Rowe asked the commission for input on how to go about giving the easement for Telemark Road and removing the easement for the old golf course. Commissioner Smits recommended contacting the Town of Cable for approval. Kevin Podvin asked if the Valhalla Home Owners Association should be aware of the easement.

Discussion of “Through the Fence” – Matt Pobloske

Tabled until November

Rezoning and Land Ownership

Sue Rosa reported that there has been a decision to create a new zoning category of ‘Airport.’ It will likely be another 12 months before the rewrite is finalized due to the amount of feedback

received. Chairman Rowe was contacted by Bunkie Miller, who is willing to handle paperwork involving deed changes for the airport when the rewrite has been finalized.

Terminal Restoration Update

John Collins utilized loaned equipment from Cable Lumber to complete the insulation in the terminal attic. He also made sure the stove pipe was insulated properly. John Collins has completed terminal work and will submit his time sheet. Kevin Padvin offered to see if he could offer a discount on window treatments.

Tree Clearing

The Gordon Correctional Facility was scheduled to begin on 10/20/25, but the chipper was not available due to a pending repair. The cutting crew will be on site on 10/22/25 and begin by the old golf course property and chip what was cut last fall, along with the south side of the turf runway. Cutting will continue on the side of the turf runway towards the gun club.

2026 Tractor Acquisition Discussion

Chairman Rowe is deferring this project to Commissioner Garceau to work with Mr. Davidson, BOA, but he is in favor of a tractor rather than a truck, as is currently listed on the ALP

Items for Next Agenda:

Bayfield County Board

Correspondence

Discussion 2026 Budget

Joining WAMA

Deer Culling - DNR Nuisance Tags

Telemark Rd Easement/Matt Pobloske Requesting Approval from the Airport

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

Rezoning & Land Ownership

Terminal Restoration Discussion

Future Airport Events

Donated 2nd Courtesy Car

Tree Clearing

2026 Tractor Acquisition Discussion

Next Meeting:

Monday, November 17, 2025, at the Airport Terminal at 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Chairman Rowe declared the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.