



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**AVIATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2026**

A. Call to Order

Supv. Gabert called the meeting to order at 3:00pm

B. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

No comments

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of June 3, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Supv. Hinz, seconded by Supv. Frassetto to Approval of June 3, 2026 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 5/0.

D. Director's Report

1. Summer Intern Introduction

Mr. Schell introduced Janae Martinez who is a graduate of Central Washington University with a degree in Aviation Management. Ms. Martinez shared that driving on the airfield, talking to tower, and all the different meetings she is being exposed to is bringing together everything that she has learned. She is looking forward to AirVenture and learning what takes place for such a large event.

2. PFAS Legislation and Litigation Update

Mr. Schell shared that the Wisconsin Act 200 and 201 were associated with PFAS remediation legislation. This created a grant fund program for a variety of different entities to be able to apply for once it is open. This did set aside \$5.25 million for airports in the state. The grant application is slated to come in the fall or winter of 2026. The county did join the class action lawsuit against the manufacturers of the chemical a few months back. The law firm associated with the lawsuit came out to do some soil sampling around the Fire Station.

3. Master Plan Update - Phase II & ALP Update

Mr. Schell shared that a major focus of the Master Plan is the airfield geometry issues and what we've been trying to resolve with the FAA. We're striving to meet all the FAA design standards, except for a couple of particular issues. One is the intersection of runway 5/23 with taxiway Alpha. It is considered a non-standard intersection. The FAA likes all taxiways which cross runways to cross at a ninety (90) degree angle. Another major push for us is to keep runway 5/23 long term as a runway.

Mr. Schell feels as though we have the right alternatives for the airfield. We're just trying to get the last remaining issue resolved for the FAA with the modification of standards. This would culminate with a presentation to the county board once it's to the point where we've been through another open house phase and the public involvement phase. Phase two also includes an Airport Layout Plan (ALP) update. The ALP shows existing conditions and future conditions on the entire airport.

E. Deputy Director's Report

1. Culvert Replacement Project Update

Mr. Locke advised that the county board approved emergency funding to fix the culvert failure on the perimeter road. We have signed a contract with Vinton Construction Company. They delivered the materials and equipment today, and are planning on fixing the culvert next week.

Mr. Locke also shared that we are starting to do a culvert inventory and tracking regular inspections of the many culverts on the airport property. There are two culverts that go under runway 18/36 that are culverts we can't inspect due to their length. Those will be combined with another project and inspected with video inspection using a robot going through the culvert. This was done a few years ago and is scheduled to be done again in the next year or two.

2. Operations & Maintenance Report

Mr. Locke informed that the repainting and markings on runway 18/36 have been completed. Our crew is continuing to prepare for AirVenture. Earlier, they painted the dots on runway 9/27, some of the Red Arrows equipment has started to arrive and is adjacent to 13/31 right now. Next week will be the annual airfield driver operations training with us and Myer's Aviation.

Mr. Locke added that the control tower elevator has been out of service for the past two weeks. Kone Elevator found an issue when they were doing regular service, took it out of service, and were waiting for parts. They had the elevator up and running today with no errors. While the elevator was down, we had a record number of operations in June with 9,186 operations. As a reminder, an aircraft operation is one takeoff and one landing.

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

None

G. EAA Report

None

H. Committee Chair's Report

Supv. Gabert wished the airport staff and EAA a successful AirVenture and that Volare Aviation LLC has good press.

I. Communications Shared by Committee Members

Supv. Hinz enquired about having a booth at AirVenture. Mr. Schell advised that since we now have developers for the business park and our airport staff being spread thin during the week of AirVenture, we are no longer staffing a booth on the grounds at EAA.

J. Items for Next Agenda

Suggestions from committee members for items to be addressed on a future agenda

None

K. Next Meeting Date

August 5, 2026

L. Adjourn

*Motion by Supv. Hinz, seconded by Supv. Frassetto to Adjourn. Motion Carried 5/0.
Meeting adjourned at 03:38 pm.*

[MIN FOOT]