

# CENTRAL WISCONSIN JOINT AIRPORT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## CENTRAL WISCONSIN AIRPORT TERMINAL

Conference Room A/B – East Terminal Upper Level, Mosinee, Wisconsin

August 11, 2026 - 8:00 a.m.

**Airport Board:** Dave Ladick – Chair      Chris Dickinson – Vice Chair *[Absent]*  
Kurt Kluck      Matt Krembs  
Rick Rettler      Tom Seubert *[Virtual]*  
Robin Falk

**Staff:** Brian Grefe, Airport Director      Mark Cihlar, Assistant Airport Director  
Dave Drozd, Assistant Airport Director – Finance      Sarah Thurs, Badging Coordinator

**Visitors:** Josh Harris & Collin Eiden, Ovation; Karl Kemper, Becher Hoppe; Noah Quisler – student job shadow

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ladick called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2026, board meeting.

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Moved by:</b>    | Matt Krembs             |
| <b>Seconded by:</b> | Kurt Kluck              |
| <b>Vote:</b>        | Ayes — all; Nays — none |
| <b>Result:</b>      | <b>MOTION CARRIED</b>   |

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public registered to speak, and none were present in person or online. The public comment period (15-minute time limit) was closed.

### 4. ARFF/SRE FACILITY — PRELIMINARY DESIGN UPDATE

Assistant Airport Director Mark Cihlar presented an update on the preliminary design of the combined Airport Rescue & Firefighting (ARFF) / Snow Removal Equipment (SRE) facility, following a briefing given to the FAA the previous day.

**Eligibility Exhibit:** Staff presented the current eligibility exhibit for the facility (board packet, p. 10), refined from the 2023 Terminal Area Master Plan layout. The exhibit identifies which spaces are eligible for federal (FAA) funding (shown in blue) versus ineligible (shown in pink), with combined-use "prorated" spaces (shown in purple) evaluated on a percentage basis. As currently analyzed, the facility is coming in at just over 95% federally eligible, which is in line with expectations. This figure is subject to change pending further FAA feedback.

**Timeline:** Preliminary design is targeted for completion by year-end 2026 (including FAA concurrence on eligibility and completed environmental review). Full design contract anticipated by spring 2027, with a construction grant application targeted for spring 2027, a possible construction grant in fall 2028, and construction completion projected for winter 2029–2030.

No motion was made on this item; presented for board information and discussion only.

### 5. STAFF REPORTS

#### A. Director's Report — Brian Grefe, Airport Director

**Air Service Update:** United Airlines has postponed the start of its CWA service to November 2027, pending a required FAA capacity restriction order. United remains committed to our market.

**Statistical Report: July 2026** — An updated statistical report handout for July was distributed by Assistant Airport Director – Finance Dave Drozd at the meeting. Air traffic control operations were down 19% for the month (up 3.6% year-to-date), largely attributable to TFR-related restrictions from wildfire smoke conditions; 5 (American Airlines) flight cancellations for the month; and air freight was up 2.5% for the month, down 2.4% year-to-date.

**Flight Schedule:** No significant changes from last month; American adjusted its afternoon departure time slightly. Upcoming charters: August 3 (Sun Country, Omaha/Caesars) and September 26 (Laughlin).

**Legislative Update:** The Senate passed a bipartisan continuing resolution funding the federal government through December 11, extending the TSA reimbursable screening program. The CR does not extend IJA infrastructure funding authority, which expires this year; this does not affect current airport project financing. The House is expected to take up the resolution after its recess in late August.

**Board Educational Travel:** A handout on upcoming state (Wisconsin Aviation Conference) and national (AAAE) conference and training opportunities was distributed for board members' review.

## **B. Financial Report — Dave Drozd, Finance Director**

**Revenues and Expenses:** July activity was reported as tracking positively year-over-year overall. Upcoming capital expenditures were noted, including budgeted equipment purchases and a parking lot expansion project. Staff are preparing updated 2027 budget estimates, including a substantial request for full design of the ARFF/SRE facility, and reviewing financing options for that design work.

**PFC Update:** Staff are meeting with the airport's PFC consultant to begin drafting a new Passenger Facility Charge application, with the SRE/ARFF building and the previously deferred baggage makeup area identified as candidate projects, as the airport is running low on PFC-eligible projects under the current application. An update is expected next month.

**Joint Finance Committee Meeting:** Confirmed for Monday, September 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., to review and adopt the 2027 airport budget with the Marathon County and Portage County finance committees.

## **C. Operations and Projects Report — Mark Cihlar, Assistant Airport Director**

The General Aviation Access Road (Flightline Drive) project is complete. The General Aviation Apron project is scheduled to begin construction August 17.

Construction continues on the General Aviation Terminal and Transient Hangar (structural steel now up on the hangar); both are anticipated to be complete and open by year-end.

FAA grants for the apron project and the final grant for the GA terminal project, announced in July, were received in paperwork the prior week.

The airport's annual FAA Part 139 inspection was completed with zero compliance issues and no corrective actions required — the second consecutive fully clean inspection.

## **6. OVATION — FIXED BASE OPERATOR REPORT, Josh Harris, Ovation**

Fuel sales were down approximately 3%, likely from smoke conditions. Flight training activity continues, and staff assisted with an aircraft recovery for American Airlines.

## **7. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE**

The next regular meeting of the Central Wisconsin Joint Airport Board is scheduled for:

**Tuesday, September 8, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. | Central Wisconsin Airport**

The Joint Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for:

**Monday, September 14, 2026 . | 5:00 p.m. . | Central Wisconsin Airport**

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.