

Upper Cumberland Regional Airport Board Minutes

July 8th, 2026

The Upper Cumberland Regional Airport Board met in regular session on Wednesday, July 8th, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Members present were Martin Ing, Chad Marcum, Randy Proter, Laurin Wheaton, Charlie Huddleston and Denny Robinson. Also, present were Dean Selby, Heather McBride, Matt England, Richard Rinks, Wyatt Thatcher, Wes Middlestead, members from the airport hangar tenant community and members of the press. Absent was Brian Jones and Jerry Lowery.

There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Denny Robinson.

Pilot Representative Appointee: The hangar tenant appointee was Bill Austin. Charlie Huddleston made motion and Laurin Wheaton seconded the motion to accept Bill Austin's appointment as the pilot representative and seat him as a member of the board. On a voice call vote, all members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Chairman Robinson ask for approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. Randy Porter made a motion and Chad Marcum seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was approved.

Fuel Sales:

- Fuel Sales in gallons:**

	May 2026	May 2025	June 2026	June 2025
Av Gas	4,560	4,283	6,589	5,000
Jet-A	14,660	12,948	12,569	17,323
Erlanger/ Wholesale	7,512	————	————	7,944
Total Fuel	26,732	17,231	19,158	30,267

- Fuel Sales** – Airport Director, Dean Selby reported that fuel sales continue to remain stable which is consistent with fuel prices as they continue to trend upward. New board member, Bill Austin, gave a brief history regarding his relationship with the airport and discussed his concerns regarding changes that he has seen over the last ten years regarding the increase in fuel sales, staffing, security implementations and the increase in grants the airport has received. The board held a detailed discussion on the efficiency of airport operations, the increased growth of the airport, how well the four governmental entities work together and the combined vision of the future of the airport. Additionally, Mr. Austin shared his concerns regarding the increase in hangar rates. Mr. Austin stated that the board raised the rents on the tenants at the last board meeting and that's the reason he was here. The board held a detailed discussion on the independent studies that were conducted, the results showing hangar rates, when tested four different ways, had dropped below market average, the current hangar maintenance projects that are underway and the boards vision for continued maintenance that helped the board to determine the new hangar rates.

Airport Director Business:

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- **Hangar Row A Repairs**– Director Selby reported that the repairs on Hangar Row A are close to being finished. There are a few odd and ends that need to be completed. Mr. Selby reported that both he and FBO Manager, Sarah Young, are working on the electrical portion of the repairs.
- **Hangar Row B Repairs** - Director Selby presented the board with change order #4 for Hangar Row B Roof in the amount of \$28,475.00 and change order #5 for Hangar Row B Electrical not to exceed \$10,000.00. The airport will be providing materials to match electrical in hangar row A. Contractor, Wyatt Thatcher was present to discuss repairs to both Hangar Rows A & B. After a brief discussion, Chad Marcum made a motion and Laurin Wheaton seconded the motion to proceed with the previously approved bid for Hangar Row B, Change Order #4 for Hangar Row B Roof in the amount of \$28,475.00 and Change Order #5 for Hangar Row B electrical not to exceed \$10,000.00. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor. The motion was approved.
- **Monument Sign** – Director Selby reported that the Airport still has grant dollars set aside from the AvFuel Marketing Grant. He would like to issue an RFP for a monument sign to replace the old sign that use to be on Hangar Row A. The board held a brief discussion on the type, size and placement of the sign. The board was in favor of issuing an RFP for new signs, potentially in close proximity to the roundabout and near Hangar Row A.
- **Website Update** – Director Selby reported that the website test site is up and running. The developer has made several changes requested by the airport. The airport anticipates going live in the near future.
- **Financials** – Airport Financials were reviewed. Board Member Bill Austin voiced his concerns regarding fuel sales and expenses today verses 10 years ago. After the board held an additional discussion on Airport operations, FBO operations, Safety and Regulatory Compliance, Chad Marcum made a motion and Randy Porter seconded the motion to approve the financials. On a roll call vote, Martin Ing - yes, Chad Marcum - yes, Laurin Wheaton - yes, Randy Porter - yes, Charlie Huddleston - yes, Denny Robinson – yes, Bill Austin – No. The motion was approved.

Engineer's Business:

- **Environmental Update on Wildlife Fence** – Assistant Director McBride provided an update on the fencing project. After Garver engineering firm submitted an initial environmental assessment along with two TDOT requested revisions, the Tennessee Historical Commission has requested the airport complete a cultural resource survey for archaeological resources. Garver has prepared an amendment to the scope and fee for the requested work from SHPO estimated at \$43,475.00. The original work authorization was \$28,000.00 bringing the total to \$71,475.00. The total amount of \$71,475.00 has previously been submitted to TDOT for grant approval. After a brief discussion reviewing the USDA recommended fencing project, the estimated project cost, TDOT's potential participation and local match requirements, Chad Marcum made a motion and Laurin Wheaton seconded the motion to approve the amended scope of services from Garver in the amount of \$43,475.00. On a roll call vote, Martin Ing – yes, Chad Marcum – yes, Laurin Wheaton – yes, Randy Porter – yes, Charlie Huddleston - abstain, Denny Robinson – yes, Bill Austin – no. The motion was approved.
- **Apron Expansion Project** - Director Selby reported that Assistant Director McBride presented the Apron Expansion project to the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission in Nashville (TAC). Mr. Selby reported that TAC was in fact committed to this project and is willing to support the expansion through to completion. The airport has been setting aside IJA funds to help fund the south-end apron expansion. Garver's estimated cost for final design thru bid is \$267,300.00

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using 95% IJA funds, 2.5% local match of \$6,683.00 and \$6,682.00 state funds. After a brief discussion of the project, Chad Marcum made a motion and Bill Austion seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Other Business:

- **Add Administrator/Signatory to Bank Account(s)** – Director Selby requested that Secretary/Treasurer Chad Marcum be added to the administrator/signatory user on the Airport’s bank accounts. Laurin Wheaton made a motion and Randy Porter seconded the motion to add Chad Marcum as an administrator/signatory to the Airport’s bank accounts. On a voice call vote, all members voted in favor. The motion was approved.
- **Director Resignation** - Airport Director Dean Selby reported to the board that he has accepted a new position with an out of state commercial service airport and would be leaving UC Regional Airport at the end of the month. The sentiment of the board was that Director Selby has been directly responsible for the monumental growth that the Airport has seen in the last nine years; and while his departure will leave “big shoes” to fill, they wish him well in all future endeavors. Director Selby recommended Assistant Director McBride to be appointed as “interim” Director until a future board decision could be made to fill the Director’s position. Bill Austin made a motion and Charlie Huddleston seconded the motion to appoint Heather McBride as the interim director. The board held a brief discussion on the recruitment efforts and the time needed to hire the next director. Bill Austin amended his motion and Charlie Huddleston seconded the amended motion to appoint McBride for a minimum of six months. On a voice call vote, all members voted in favor. The amended motion was approved. After a detailed discussion on the interim director salary, Bill Austin amended his motion and Randy Porter seconded the amended motion to increase McBride’s annual salary to \$75,000.00. On a voice call vote, all members voted in favor. The motion was approved.
- **Hangar Rates** – Bill Austin addressed the recent increase in hangar rates. Mr. Austin felt the increase was unfair and would like the board to reconsider the rates. Bill Austin made a motion and Charlie Huddleston seconded the motion to reduce the hangar rates back to what they were before the recent change with a 10% cost of living increase for a minimum of one year. On a roll call vote, Martin Ing - no, Chad Marcum - no, Laurin Wheaton - no, Randy Porter - no, Charlie Huddleston - yes, Denny Robinson – no, Bill Austin – yes. The motion failed.
- **Public Input/Members of the Audience** – Several hangar tenants were present to address the board regarding their concerns with the recent hangar rate increases. The tenants conveyed they felt the increase was unfair, disagreed with the approach that was taken to arrive at the new rates and would like the board to reconsider the increase. Board members held an open discussion regarding the needed maintenance for hangars that could potentially be a safety issue, the plan to continue hangar repairs after Hangar Row B, the lack of TDOT funding to repair hangars and the concern that City/County taxpayers would have to subsidize hangar repairs in addition to the annual contribution. The board conveyed to the tenants present that they were open to suggestions and encouraged the tenants present to bring back those suggested options to the next board meeting.
- **Next Board Meeting** - The next regular scheduled board meeting will be held Wednesday, August 12th, 2026 at 4:00pm.

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There being no further business, Bill Austin made a motion and Laurin Wheaton seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was approved.

Randy Porter, Chairman

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