



**Tri-County Airport Authority**  
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## Vision 2028 Committee Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2026 – 9:00 AM - Airport Conference Room

*In attendance were committee members, participants and guests as listed on the attached attendance sheet.*

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Locke called meeting to order at 8:57 AM; a quorum was confirmed as per the attached sign-in sheet to include Exum, who attended by telephone.
2. **Invocation:** Ross Statham
3. **Review of Agenda:** It was unanimously decided to modify the proposed agenda by focusing instead upon 1) identification of needed infrastructure items, 2) identification of resources to help us with planning, grants and funding, 3) discussion about growth areas on airport property, 4) use of a Vision 2028 graphic and 5) decision as to where and when future meetings should be held.
4. **Approval of previous month's meeting minutes:** None. (This was our first meeting)
5. **Audience wishing to speak:** None.
6. **Old Business:**
  - a. None
7. **New Business:**
  - a. Chairman Locke noted that we were recently informed by FDOT that our \$1.5 million planned grant for future terminal building improvement funds were recently reduced to half of that amount, and \$190,000 in funding from our water distribution (tank and lines) were reallocated to the hangar site improvements at the north complex. The remaining amount in the water distribution grant will be insufficient for the project we have in mind.
  - b. **Identification of Infrastructure**
    - i. Initial discussions were around the most vitally needed infrastructure items:
      1. Water (stormwater/drainage as well as fresh-water supply for the Authority's and our customers' needs)
      2. Sewer or Septic
      3. Power/Electricity (including emergency power)
      4. Taxiways
    - ii. Other infrastructure needs:
      1. The need to pave Tri-County Airport Road, which should be a major priority for this initiative
      2. High Speed internet for our tenants
  - c. **Questions we should ask ourselves**
    - i. **Do we need to change our Airport Layout master plan?** The initial consensus was "yes", and discussions briefly centered around to what degree and how. These will be discussed in future meetings.
    - ii. **Is the current fuel farm in the right location for long-term growth?**
    - iii. **Is the current terminal building in the right location for long-term growth?**
    - iv. **How should we allocate space for both general aviation hangars and tie-downs as well as commercial hangars, commercial tenants and commercial office space?**
  - d. **Identification of resources for planning, grants and funding**

- i. Locke, Crutchfield and Exum identified people they know who could potentially help us in the areas of grant identification and grant writing. They plan to reach out to those individuals.
- ii. Statham identified FloridaCommerce, a State of Florida office that helps organizations, county governments and city governments with needs similar to ours. He will reach out to them.
- iii. Locke will reach out to our Airport Engineer (Lee Lewis at AVCON) to discuss some of the infrastructure needs and especially water issues.

**e. Growth areas on airport property**

- i. In reviewing the planning graphic for future hangar growth, we identified four areas that would appear to be ideal for future growth by way of general aviation (“GA”) hangars and commercial hangars (see Figures 1,2 & 3 on pages 4 & 5)
  - 1. **Figure 1:** Area between shade hangar and north hangar
  - 2. **Figure 2:** Area to the west of existing general aviation (GA) hangars. (We have identified access from an existing taxiway to this area along the far southern existing GA hangar.)
  - 3. **Figure 3:**
    - a. Potential site for General Aviation hangars as currently shown on our master plan for long-term growth;
    - b. Commercial Aviation hangars (and potential office space) not on our current master plan, but ideal for this location.
- ii. We believe that we have sufficient height on our property for a water tower (close to the current weather station).
- iii. We have briefed the County Manager and County Commissioners of Holmes, Washington and Jackson Counties for the urgent need for the paving of Tri-County Airport Road along the 9/10 mile western boundary of the airport. This has become one of the top priorities of airport leadership.

**f. Use of a Vision 2028 graphic:** The Committee approved a graphic for use in our reports, proposals and presentations (Figure 4 on page 5)

**g. Future meetings:** Future meetings to be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 9 am in the airport conference room and published on the website.

**h. What’s our message to those who can help us with this?** The committee discussed using the following message to those that we believe can help us and to the general public:

“We currently have businesses that want to locate their operations on our airport. These would provide well-paying jobs that will affect long-term local economic growth and development. We simply don’t have the infrastructure needed to allow them to locate here, and we ask for your help in putting that infrastructure into place.”

“We have a proven reputation for attracting quality tenants and for managing our finances, operations and projects to the full satisfaction of the Florida Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration. We would appreciate any help you can provide to help us make our vision a reality for the citizens of Northwest Florida.”

(The remainder of this page was left intentionally blank.)

**Adjourn:** There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 AM.

*These minutes were compiled by Ross Statham, Secretary, and when subsequently approved by the Board of Directors (during the next meeting of the Board) and when signed by the Secretary, shall constitute a true record to be included with the official legal records.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ross Statham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

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Ross E. Statham, Secretary



*Figure 1: Proposed New Hangar Site 1*



*Figure 2: Proposed New Hangar Sites 2 (Multiple), Possible Office Space*



Figure 3: Potential General Aviation and Commercial Aviation Hangars



Figure 4: Vision 2028 Approved Graphic