

**BLACKWATER REGIONAL LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES  
September 21, 2022**

**Present**

Ora Briggs – Sussex County  
Sylvia Claggett – Isle of Wight County  
Jennifer Cuthbertson – Southampton County  
Deborah Dawson – Surry County  
Cathy Funk – Isle of Wight County  
Terri Hedgepeth – City of Franklin  
Connie Henderson – Isle of Wight County  
Michelle Manfred – Isle of Wight County  
Jessica Moore – Sussex County  
William Scott – City of Franklin  
Pam Vaughan – Isle of Wight County  
Bill Worsham – Southampton County  
Ben Neal – Library Director  
Bonnie Lauver – Assistant Library Director  
Debbie Carter – Budget & Finance Manager  
Lisa Varga—Executive Director, Virginia Library  
Association

**Remote (via Zoom)**

**Absent**

MeChelle Blunt – Southampton County  
Pam Lease – City of Franklin  
Denise Tynes – Isle of Wight County

Chair Connie Henderson called the Board Retreat to order at 1:03 p.m. and turned over the Retreat to Mr. Neal. Mr. Neal welcomed board members and introduced Ms. Varga from VLA.

Ms. Varga spoke of the rise of book challenges in Virginia over the last couple of years in public schools, public libraries, and society at-large, including developments in the legal system. Ms. Varga talked about the importance of having collections that serve the whole community & for library boards to support intellectual freedom in their libraries. She also spoke of the importance for library boards to have strong policies in place and fielded several questions from board members on different aspects of the larger issue.

The board thanked Ms. Varga for her presentation and Mr. Neal preceded to give a brief tour of the library's website, and highlighted some key services and resources that the library offers.

Ms. Henderson announced that the Board would take a short break before returning for the Regular Board meeting and the Board Retreat adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Carter for  
Terri Hedgepeth, Secretary