

**BLACKWATER REGIONAL LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES  
July 24, 2024**

**Present**

MeChelle Blunt – Southampton County  
Ora Briggs – Sussex County  
Sylvia Claggett – Isle of Wight County  
Deborah Dawson – Surry County  
Terri Hedgepeth – City of Franklin  
Pam Lease – City of Franklin  
Kathy Lippard – Isle of Wight County  
Jessica Moore – Sussex County  
Judge Alfreda Talton-Harris – 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  
Reagen Thalacker – Library of Virginia

**Remote (via Zoom)**

**Absent**  
Jennifer Cuthbertson – Southampton County

Chair, Deborah Dawson called the Board Orientation/Refresher of the Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees to order at 1:05 p.m. at the Franklin Branch. Ms. Dawson then turned the Orientation over to Mr. Neal.

Mr. Neal introduced Reagen Thalacker of the Library of Virginia. Ms. Thalacker presented information on founding principles of librarianship, responsibilities of the Board, Board relationships, advocacy, records management/FOIA, and legal issues regarding book challenges.

Mr. Neal and the Board thanked Ms. Thalacker for her presentation. Mr. Neal proceeded to give a presentation on the structure, budget, and funding sources of Blackwater Regional Library, and answered questions from Board members.

Afterwards, Ms. Dawson moved to adjourn for a short break prior to resuming for the full meeting. The Board orientation was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Carter for  
Sylvia Claggett, Secretary