

**BLACKWATER REGIONAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
June 17, 2026**

Present

Jacqueline Carr – Isle of Wight County
Deborah Dawson – Surry County
Charlene Herrala – Isle of Wight County
Pam Lease – City of Franklin
Kathy Lippard – Isle of Wight County
Margie McClenny – Southampton County
Judge Alfreda Talton-Harris – City of Franklin
Karen Richardson – Sussex County
Kisha Watford – Southampton County
Johanna Wiggins – Isle of Wight County
Bonnie Lauver – Interim Library Director
Amy Fisk – Administrative Services Coordinator

Remote (via Zoom)

Absent

MeChelle Blunt – Southampton County
Ora Briggs – Sussex County
Sylvia Claggett – Isle of Wight County

Chair, Deborah Dawson called the meeting of the Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees to order at 3:06 p.m. at the Franklin Branch.

Agenda

Ms. Carr moved, and Ms. Watford seconded that the agenda be approved as amended. The vote was unanimous.

Presentation by Scott Carr, Wells Fargo Advisor

Wells Fargo advisor, Scott Carr gave a presentation on the status of the Rawls trust, which experienced a 12.5% gain in 2025 and is currently up 6.2% to date in 2026.

Consideration of Remote Meeting Participation Requests

None

Minutes

Ms. McClenny moved, and Ms. Lippard seconded the minutes be approved as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

None

Library Director's Report

The Seed Library has been added to all locations whereas before it was only in a select few. The Seed Library consist of a verity of herbs, flowers, and vegetables. Patrons may harvest the seeds from the plants grown or bring their own seeds to replenish the seeds in the Seed Library.

Summer Reading Challenge kicks off this week at all locations. The challenge includes 8-week reading challenges for all ages, along with weekly activities for the youth and special events and performances.

Blackwater Regional Library will be hosting events celebrating America's 250th birthday during the first week of July.

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance – Ms. Lauver – Sussex County voted on their FY27 Operating Budget with a reduction in funding for Blackwater Regional Library. Adjustments to staffing and branch hours will be made accordingly. We are considering options that would have the least amount of impact on staff and the community.

Personnel & Policy – Ms. Briggs – no report

Director's Search – Ms. Dawson – The committee met Wednesday, June 10 to review applications received to date. After careful consideration, the committee felt it necessary to extend the posting to accept additional applicants; the second posting is scheduled to close July 15. The committee meets again Wednesday, July 1 to review additional applicants.

Accounts Payable

Ms. Herrala moved, and Ms. Richardson seconded, the accounts payable be filed for the Annual Audit. The vote was unanimous.

Unfinished Business

Election of Officers for FY2026 – Ms. Dawson – The proposed partial slate of officers for fiscal year 2027 is Karen Richardson, Chair and Pam Lease, Vice-Chair. Ms. Dawson asked for nominations from the floor – there were none. Ms. McClenny moved, and Ms. Herrala seconded that nominations be closed and the slate of officers be accepted as proposed. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Dawson asked for nominations from the floor for the position of Secretary. Ms. Lippard nominated Ms. Herrala. Ms. Watford moved, and Judge Harris seconded, to accept and close nominations with Ms. Herrala being accepted as nominated. The vote was unanimous.

New Business

Acknowledgement of Outgoing Board Members – Ms. Lauver expressed gratitude for years of service to outgoing Trustees Deborah Dawson, Sylvia Claggett, and Ora Briggs.

Board Member Comments/Announcements

Appreciation was had by all for Ms. Dawson.

Announcement of Next Meeting

The next Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at the Franklin Branch.

Adjournment

Ms. Watford moved, and Ms. Lease seconded the meeting to be adjourned. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Fisk for
Ora Briggs, Secretary