

**BLACKWATER REGIONAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2026**

Present

MeChelle Blunt – Southampton County
Jacqueline Carr – Isle of Wight County
Rhonda Chambliss – City of Franklin
Charlene Herrala – Isle of Wight County
Margie McClenny – Southampton County
Karen Richardson – Sussex County
Judge Alfreda Talton-Harris – City of Franklin
Johanna Wiggins – Isle of Wight County
Bonnie Lauver – Assistant Library Director
Debbie Carter – Budget & Finance Manager

Remote (via Zoom)

Absent

Pam Lease – City of Franklin
Kathy Lippard – Isle of Wight County
Kisha Watford – Southampton County

Chair Karen Richardson called the meeting of the Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees to order at 3:08 p.m. at the Franklin Branch.

Agenda

Ms. Herrala moved, and Ms. McClenny seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Consideration of Remote Meeting Participation Requests

None

Minutes

Ms. Carr moved, and Ms. Herrala seconded the minutes be approved as amended. The vote was unanimous.

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

None

Library Director's Report

Summer Reading Challenge 2026 is in full swing! Lots of kids and camps are enjoying a cool place to have fun during the hot weather!

America 250/VA250 events have included movie days in Courtland and Smithfield; a program by the Isle of Wight Museum in Carrollton; and craft programs in Franklin and Courtland.

Beginning in July, BRL will be participating in a new program called "Cool Connections" with Western Tidewater Community Services Board, Early Childhood Western Tidewater, The Girl Scouts, and Franklin Parks and Rec for the Franklin locations. Monthly, outdoor community stops focused on connecting with kids through activities and games.

July 23rd: Dorchester (FR)

July 30th: Clyde's Dale Community (IW)

August 20th: Charlie's Mobile Home Park (SO)

August 27th: Forest Pines Apartments (FR)

September 17th: Franklin Location

September 24th: Courtland Apartments (SO)

October 8th: FR Location

October 22nd: IW Location

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance – Ms. Lauver & Ms. Carter – The FY2026 amended budget was distributed in the handouts. Amendments were reviewed. Ms. Herrala moved, and Ms. Blunt seconded that the budget be amended as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Personnel & Policy – no report

Search – Ms. Richardson – The committee has three solid candidates for Library Director. Interviews will be held via Zoom from the Rawls branch on Thursday, July 23, 2026.

Accounts Payable

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

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Board Member Comments/Announcements**Announcement of Next Meeting**

The next Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees meeting will be the Board Retreat on September 16, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Franklin Branch. The regular Board meeting will follow at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Judge Harris moved, and Ms. Herrala seconded the meeting be adjourned. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Carter for
Charlene Herrala, Secretary