

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The quarterly regional board meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Sandi Vito, chair. Trustees in attendance were Sandi Vito, chair, Julie Mikols, vice-chair, Frances Chavous, Glenice Watts, Charles Carlson, Emerson Wiles, Artheen Fitts, Dawn Winn. Abigail Barna-Ashley was also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Chavous made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 9 meeting with a verbiage change in the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 2 from “Trustee Fortson” to “Director Forston”. Trustee Winn seconded the motion. All were in favor, and none were opposed. The minutes were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Audit / Financial Report

Trustee Mikols presented the July 2023 – June 2024 Audit. The audit report was clean with minor issues related to check signing and a missing reimbursement check. AHJ’s Net position improved by \$13,000.

County Allocations

Trustees discussed an update on county allocations and State Aid. All Quarter 1 appropriations were received from all counties and the State Library. Quarter 2 appropriations were received from Jasper and Hampton County but are still pending from Allendale County and State Aid.

2025 Holiday Schedule

The list of 2025 Holidays was presented with no changes in system-wide observed holidays. The list of holidays was approved by the board.

INTERIM DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Hoopla

Hoopla launched in January 2025. Since the launch date, 57 patrons created an account and borrowed a total of 127 items. The average cost per circulation is: \$2.21.

Sprinter Van Grant

The \$50,000 Impact Grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services was officially approved after initial conditional approval with the requirement of grant revision. Abigail Barna-Ashley has an upcoming meeting to review retailer options.

Annual Survey

An Annual Survey for each individual county and the regional system was completed and submitted evaluating our statistics for the previous FY. Highlights of the survey included an increase in adult registered users, library visits and program attendance.

Personnel Update

Carol Dingle was hired as a full-time branch manager at the Estill Library after serving as Interim Branch Manager.

Bookmobile

The bookmobile went through repairs and is now running smoothly. Statistics on patron numbers and circulation numbers were reported for November and December. The bookmobile is scheduled to run 34 stops in January and 32 stops in February.

COUNTY REPORTS**Hampton County**

Hampton County has 2 new board members and an upcoming trustee meeting.

Allendale County

Allendale County board members have been more active. The Allendale County Board recently had a well-attended board meeting.

Jasper County

Pratt renovations are underway, and the library is operating out of a temporary space located at 112 Weathersby Street. The Jasper County Board is seeking a new board member to replace Stu Shatz.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – No announcements were made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting moved into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 5:00 PM at the Estill Public Library.

Respectively submitted,
Abigail Barna-Ashley, Deputy Director
March 18, 2025