

Kitchigami Regional Library System
Board Meeting, March 20, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Kitchigami Headquarters Building, Pine River, MN

Board members present: Jamie Lee (Crow Wing Co.), Jeremy Engholm (Park Rapids), Murlyn Kreklau (Wadena Co.), Scott Bruns (Cass Co.), Mary Koep (Brainerd).
Neil Tobiason (Longville)

Board members present by interactive technology: Don Johnson (Blackduck, alt.), Mary Beth Hansen (Walker), George Deiss (Wadena), Lynn Eaton (Bemidji), Joe Gould (Beltrami Co.)

Board members absent: Tom Krueger (Hubbard Co.), Brent Norman (Pine River), Annie Sevenich (Cass Lake)

Others present non-voting: Staff members: KRLS Director Melissa Whatley, Admin Asst. Svetlana Lang

Vice-Chair Murlyn Kreklau called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and requested participation in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

KRLS Oath of Office Director Whatley administered the oath of office to confirm Donald Johnson as the alternate representative of City of Blackduck.

Approval of Agenda Director Whatley requested adding Item 7g Minitex Resolution to the agenda. She also noted updates to the Director’s Report had been emailed to Board members and that there were handouts that were available at the meeting.

Motion by Mary Koep, seconded by Scott Bruns, to approve the agenda as revised. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Jamie Lee, Jeremy Engholm, Murlyn Kreklau, Scott Bruns, Mary Koep, Neil Tobiason, Donald Johnson, Mary Beth Hansen, George Deiss, Lynn Eaton. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Input There was no public input at this meeting.

Consent Agenda Director Whatley updated the Board about how well the Winter Reading Program was going. Also, the State Library Services will be visiting in May to tour several branches and discuss their needs. There has been discussion with Minitex about starting a 24/7 reference service on the KRLS website. The Minnesota DNR will be expanding the popular park pass program. Blackduck and Brainerd have both been accepted for \$472,000 in grants for use in updating their facilities.

Motion by Jamie Lee, seconded by Jeremy Engholm, to approve the consent agenda items A-D.

- a. Minutes: January 2025
- b. Bills: January – February 2025

c. Financial Statements: January – February 2025

d. Director's Report

Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Jamie Lee, Jeremy Engholm, Murlyn Kreklau, Scott Bruns, Mary Koep, Neil Tobiason, Donald Johnson, Mary Beth Hansen, George Deiss, Lynn Eaton. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Old Business --

There was no old business.

Joe Gould joined the meeting virtually at 6:15 p.m.

2025 Regional Budgets

The KRLS Board was informed of the 2025 Headquarters Budget, 2025 Overview Budget, and Fund Balance policy and assessment for 2025. A second assessment will be done when the audit is received.

Motion by Scott Bruns, seconded by Neil Tobiason, to approve the regional budget as presented. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Jamie Lee, Jeremy Engholm, Murlyn Kreklau, Scott Bruns, Mary Koep, Neil Tobiason, Donald Johnson, Mary Beth Hansen, George Deiss, Lynn Eaton, Joe Gould. **Motion carried unanimously.**

2024 Annual Report Approval

Motion by Mary Koep, seconded by Jeremy Engholm, to approve the signing and submission of the 2024 annual report to the State of Minnesota. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Jamie Lee, Jeremy Engholm, Murlyn Kreklau, Scott Bruns, Mary Koep, Neil Tobiason, Donald Johnson, Mary Beth Hansen, George Deiss, Lynn Eaton, Joe Gould. **Motion carried unanimously.**

CD Renewal

The Board discussed possible actions to be taken regarding several CDs that mature on April 17, 2025.

Motion by Jamie Lee, seconded by Neil Tobiason, to contact the Executive Committee for a decision closer to the CD dates of maturity. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Jamie Lee, Jeremy Engholm, Murlyn Kreklau, Scott Bruns, Mary Koep, Neil Tobiason, Donald Johnson, Mary Beth Hansen, George Deiss, Lynn Eaton, Joe Gould. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Bemidji Capital Appropriation Request

Bemidji has requested \$7,316 be released to remodel their front desk area and to add book-browsing shelving.

Motion by Mary Koep, seconded by Lynn Eaton, to approve the Bemidji capital appropriation as requested. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Jamie Lee, Jeremy Engholm, Murlyn Kreklau, Scott Bruns, Mary Koep, Neil Tobiason, Donald Johnson, Mary Beth Hansen, George Deiss, Lynn Eaton, Joe Gould. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Blackduck Capital Appropriation Request

Blackduck has requested \$57,583 be released to remodel their entryway and restrooms and to install a technology meeting space. This renovation has been approved by the City Council.

Motion by Scott Bruns, seconded by Mary Koep, to approve the Blackduck capital appropriation request as requested. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Jamie Lee, Jeremy Engholm, Murlyn Kreklau, Scott Bruns, Mary Koep, Neil Tobiason, Donald Johnson, Mary Beth Hansen, George Deiss, Lynn Eaton, Joe Gould. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Blackduck and KRLS Joint Powers Agreement Request

Motion by Joe Gould, seconded by Jamie Lee, to sign and return an updated Joint Powers Agreement to the City of Blackduck. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Jamie Lee, Jeremy Engholm, Murlyn Kreklau, Scott Bruns, Mary Koep, Neil Tobiason, Donald Johnson, Mary Beth Hansen, George Deiss, Lynn Eaton, Joe Gould. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7g - Funding Discussion & Minitex Resolution

Director Whatley described Minitex and the services it provides and asked if the Board would be willing to sign a letter in support of Minitex receiving funding from the State of Minnesota.

Motion by Jamie Lee, seconded by Jeremy Engholm, to sign the Minitex resolution. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Jamie Lee, Jeremy Engholm, Murlyn Kreklau, Scott Bruns, Mary Koep, Neil Tobiason, Donald Johnson, Mary Beth Hansen, George Deiss, Lynn Eaton, Joe Gould. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Chair's Report

Chair Krueger was not present at this meeting.

Motion by Scott Bruns, seconded by Neil Tobiason, to adjourn at 6:48 p.m.

Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Jamie Lee, Jeremy Engholm, Murlyn Kreklau, Scott Bruns, Mary Koep, Neil Tobiason, Donald Johnson, Mary Beth Hansen, George Deiss, Lynn Eaton, Joe Gould.

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes respectively submitted by Administrative Assistant Svetlana Maria Lang.

Minutes signed by Board Secretary Brent Norman _____

Date _____