

**Kitchigami Regional Library System
Board Meeting, July 17, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Kitchigami Headquarters Building, Pine River, MN**

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

Board members present by interactive technology: George Deiss (Wadena), Joe Gould (Beltrami Co.), Donald Johnson (Blackduck, alt.), Cecil Reams (Cass Lake)

Board members absent: Lynn Eaton (Bemidji), Mary Beth Hansen (Walker),

Others present, non-voting: In Person: KRLS Director Melissa Whatley, Admin Asst. Svetlana Lang, Carol Christensen, Terria Rohloff, Troy Bauch (AFSCME Council 65), Angie Flaten, Danni Rardin, Sue Oliver, Robin Mahala, Mary Beth Durham.

Interactive Technology: Laurel Hall, Nancy Huckstead, Dan Touchette, Jess, Christian, "Zoom User," RKA

Tom Krueger 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 Cecil Reams as the representative for the City of Cass Lake.

Approval of Agenda **Motion by Jeremy Engholm, seconded by Neil Tobiason, to approve the agenda and additional documents.** Roll call vote was taken.
Yes: In-person – Jeremy Engholm, Neil Tobiason, Tom Krueger, Jaimie Lee, Scott Bruns, Mary Koep, Murlyn Kreklau; via Zoom – George Deiss, Cecil Reams, Joe Gould. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Donald Johnson joined the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Public Input Troy Bauch, AFSCME Council 65 representative for KRLS. Mr. Bauch spoke regarding a recent investigation and gave each board member a copy of a letter he had written to them. Chair Krueger confirmed the document would be read by all board members and addressed at a future meeting.

Consent Agenda

It was noted that there had been an error in the June 12, 2025, meeting minutes: Mary Beth Durham joined the June 2025 meeting virtually at 6:08 p.m., not Mary Beth Hansen. Also, there were no findings at the time of the July meeting regarding the check fraud discovered by Pine River State Bank.

Motion by Jeremy Engholm, seconded by Scott Bruns, to approve the consent agenda Items A-E.

- a. **Minutes: June 2025**
- b. **Bills: 2025**
- c. **Financial Statements: 2025 YTD**
- d. **Director's Report**

Roll call vote was taken. Yes: In-person -- Jeremy Engholm, Neil Tobiason, Tom Krueger, Jaime Lee, Scott Bruns, Mary Koep, Murlyn Kreklau; via Zoom -- George Deiss, Cecil Reams, Joe Gould. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Donald Johnson was attending the meeting virtually and could not hear the meeting, so could not vote.

Old Business --
FY2026 Regional Library Basic
System Support (RLBSS)
Application

Director Whatley went over documents which supported the Board's approval and signing in June of the FY2026 RLBSS application.

Donald Johnson left the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

2026 KRLS Budget
Development – City/County
Operating Budgets

There was discussion by the Board.

Motion by Murlyn Kreklau, seconded by Joe Gould, to distribute the budget to the Cities and Counties for feedback.

Roll call vote was taken. Yes: In-person -- Jeremy Engholm, Neil Tobiason, Tom Krueger, Jaime Lee, Scott Bruns, Mary Koep, Murlyn Kreklau; via Zoom -- George Deiss, Cecil Reams, Joe Gould. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Compensation Study Proposals

Motion by Joe Gould, seconded by Jeremy Engholm, to accept the Roo Solutions proposal as included in the document packet. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: In-person -- Jeremy Engholm, Neil Tobiason, Tom Krueger, Jaime Lee, Scott Bruns, Murlyn Kreklau; via Zoom -- George Deiss, Joe Gould. No: Mary Koep. Abstain: Cecil Reams. **Motion carried.**

New Business --
ACHF / Legacy FY2026
Application

Motion by Mary Koep, seconded by Jamie Lee, to submit the ACHF application and signatures to the State. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: In-person -- Jeremy Engholm, Neil Tobiason, Tom Krueger, Jaime Lee, Scott Bruns, Mary Koep, Murlyn Kreklau; via Zoom -- George Deiss, Cecil Reams, Joe Gould. **Motion carried unanimously.**


Chair's Report

Chair Krueger asked everyone to read the letter received at the meeting and send any questions to him via Director Whatley. If it is decided that a special meeting is needed, one can be called by the Chair or two other board members together. If not, it will be addressed at the September board meeting.

Motion by Murlyn Kreklau, seconded by Neil Tobiason, to adjourn at 6:41 p.m.

Roll call vote was taken. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: In-person -- Jeremy Engholm, Neil Tobiason, Tom Krueger, Jaime Lee, Scott Bruns, Mary Koep, Murlyn Kreklau; via Zoom -- George Deiss, Cecil Reams, Joe Gould. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Svetlana Maria Lang.

Minutes signed by Board Secretary Brent Norman 

Date 9-18-25

