

**HEARTLAND LIBRARY COOPERATIVE  
GOVERNING BOARD**

Lake Placid Public Library – Meeting Room  
1069 US Hwy. 27 N., Lake Placid, FL

**Minutes to the May 21, 2025 Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:39 a.m.

Invocation was led by Chair Jeannie Palacios.

Pledge was led by Treasurer Commissioner Brad Goodbread.

**ROLL CALL:**

Governing Board Members Present: Jeannie Palacios Chair Hardee County; Commissioner Brad Goodbread Treasurer Okeechobee County; Commissioner Hattie Taylor Glades County; Terri Moorhouse Glades County; Commissioner Judy Schaefer Vice-Chair DeSoto County; Lauri Benson Desoto County; Nicole Drake Hardee County; Denise Whitehead Okeechobee County; Vikki Brown Coordinator Heartland.

**Also Present:** Regina Ussery Hardee County; Kresta King Librarian Okeechobee County; Iris Perkins Librarian Glades County.

**Absent:** Ann Ryals Desoto County; Sue Rood Highlands County; Commissioner Arlene Tuck Highlands County.

**ROUTINE BUSINESS:**

**Notice of Public Meeting:** Notice was properly given.

**Additions to Agenda:** None.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Commissioner Brad Goodbread moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Judy Schaefer; unanimously passed.

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Lauri Benson moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Brad Goodbread; unanimously passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Lauri Benson moved to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Judy Schaefer; unanimously passed.

**I. Budget Amendment 25-01**

No discussion.

## **ACTION AGENDA:**

### **I. Coordinator & Assistant Coordinator Evaluations.**

- a. Board approved Vikki Brown to research this and provide information at the next meeting to the board. Nicole Drake moved to approve this and was seconded by Terri Moorhouse; unanimously passed.

Vikki Brown informed the Board of the suggestion made by the Heartland Library Cooperative's accountant, Wicks, Brown & Williams to put the \$450,000 state aid funds into a 9 month CD in public funds. Board direction is for Vikki Brown to research different banking institutes and available terms and interest rates to ensure the Heartland Library Cooperative is getting the most return on investment.

## **INFORMATIONAL:**

### **I. Audit Update**

Vikki Brown provided the audit results packet to the board and shared that it is official that the Heartland Library Cooperative had another clean audit year for FY24.

### **II. IMLS Update**

Vikki Brown provide an update on the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services). Vikki shared that an injunction to block the dismantling of the IMLS has happened, so as of right now IMLS can operate. Vikki also explained that IMLS does not provide the State Aid funds to the individual counties or the Heartland Library Cooperative, but does fund things like the LSTA grants, which the Cooperative has been awarded in the past and those LSTA funds also make much of what the multicounty library cooperative, like TBLC and SWFLN do possible. Those organizations are how member libraries receive free training and access to a variety of resources.

### **III. Staff Day**

Vikki Brown shared that the Staff Day was a great success and thanked the Friends of the Library groups for supporting this and providing funding to help make it possible.

### **IV. Library Statistics**

Vikki Brown provided the statistics and shared that the member libraries are still trending up.

### **V. Financial Statement**

Vikki Brown provided the financial statements for the Board's perusal.

### **VI. 2024 Statement of Financial Interests Due: July 1, 2025**

Vikki Brown shared that the Florida Ethics Statement of Financial Interests Form 6 for Commissioners and Form 1 for all other members is due July 1, 2025. Vikki shared that will send out the information on filing to the board.

### **VII. Member Updates**

- Brad Goodbread shared about the new pump track being a resounding success in Okeechobee County. Denise Whitehead contributed that there are only four of these in the state. It was covered by a grant and a community donation.
- Kresta King shared that Okeechobee library is starting meals to kids, 7 days a week. On June 28, the library will be hosting a community block party. There is a new

communications person in Okeechobee County BOCC that is highlighting the library through short videos. Research for a playground is underway.

- Denise Whitehead shared that more about the new communications person also being a public information officer and since their onboarding, they have seen a 300% increase of positive interactions on the BOCC social media.
- Regina Ussery shared that Hardee library is busy with planning and prepping for summer reading programs, sharing that the library has a very busy summer planned. The Hardee County Friends of the Library recently opened a bookstore/coffee shop in downtown Wauchula.
- Regina Ussery informed the Board that Hardee Library will be starting new hours on December 2nd, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Monday – Friday and 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, and now has new staff to help cover these additional hours. Regina also stated that the Library was included in Hardee County’s capital improvement plans and has been granted \$30,000 for a new Teen space and \$15,000 to improve the children’s space.
- Nicole Drake also shared about the new Friends of the Library bookstore, stating that it has given them the opportunity to share more about the library with community members.
- Iris Perkins shared that Glades library is also busy with summer reading planning and preparations. They will be partnering with the YMCA and providing breakfast and lunch to kids.
- Terri Moorhouse and Hattie Taylor both expressed kudos to Iris for doing a great job at the library and said they are very proud of the work she is doing there.
- Vikki Brown shared that Highlands libraries are also gearing up for summer reading, and shared that the Highlands branches added some new library of thing items, which include a laminator, label makers, memory kits and tabletop gaming kit. More items are coming soon.
- Judy Schaefer shared that Linda Waters has a lot of activities planned for the DeSoto library for the summer, and that Linda is a blessing to their county. DeSoto County will also be partnering with the YMCA.
- Jeannie Palacios shared that summer reading program in Hardee will be very busy, shared that the bookstore has later in the evening hours and gave kudos to Regina for the work being done. Jeannie also thanked the librarians of the member libraries for doing great work and for always going above and beyond.

**Adjournment:**

Judy Schaefer moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brad Goodbread; unanimously passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vikki Brown