

McMinn County Library Board
1289 Ingleside Avenue
Athens, Tennessee 37303

Board Meeting MINUTES
NOVEMBER 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Present – Chairman Tyler Forrest, Vice Chairman Mickey Blevins, Treasurer Tim Womac, Secretary Tyler Boyd, EGFPL Director Rebeckah (Becky) Coleman, Regional Library Director Liz Schreck, and MCLB members Jan Dingess, Kay Harper, Ashley Smith, and Dwight Jordan. MCLB member Jacob Burnette was absent.

- I. Call to Order, Establish Quorum, and Acknowledgments - Chairman Forrest welcomed everyone and established a quorum.
- II. Public Comments – Fisher Library staff member Jerri Hill said they have completed work on the new Digital Tennessee Community Collection Project and that the website is now live.
- III. Approval of Minutes - Secretary Tyler Boyd presented the Minutes from the September 22, 2025 meeting. Board member Jan Dingess made the motion to accept the Minutes. Board member Kay Harper seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Auditor’s Report – Paul Johnson of the firm Johnson, Murphey and Wright discussed the most recent audit. Chairman Forrest commended his firm on an “outstanding job.”
- V. Treasurer’s Report - Treasurer Tim Womac compared income and expenses in September 2024 and September 2025. On income, he reported that the quarterly check from the McMinn County Commission came in recently, as well as a donation from Friends of the Library and a \$6,600 TOP Grant. He noted that donations were down in 2025 because of a substantial donation of \$74,000 in 2024. On expenses, he noted that expenses were up in 2025 because of a \$7,000 auditor expense, a \$2,525 operations software expense, and some memberships, training, and TOP Grant expenses. He reminded everyone that the library switched their operations software from Verso to Atrium last year. He then compared income and expenses for October 2024 and October 2025. On income, he reported that the quarterly check from the City of Athens came in recently, as well as a \$2,000 donation from Friends of the Library. On expenses, he noted that the big expense was once again on the audit and that there were no operations software expenses this year, but there were a few equipment expenses. He also noted that payroll was higher in 2025. He also reported that the Maintenance of Effort document has made its rounds and was delivered back to Regional Library Director Liz Schreck before Halloween. He

expressed how thankful we all are for the recent donations and checks from our funding bodies.

VI. Library Reports

- i. Calhoun – Treasurer Tim Womac reported that the library will soon have a new director. He discussed the library’s recent Halloween event, reporting that over 200 children attended and received candy. He previewed the upcoming Christmas in the Park event scheduled for November 28. He noted that plans are underway for Summer Reading and that they would be partnering with the Calhoun Elementary School for the Wise Owl Reading Program “to get more kids reading.”
- ii. E.G. Fisher – Fisher Library Director Becky Coleman reported that since July 1, the library has issued 549 library cards, added 3,461 items, and had over 19,000 items checked out. She discussed recent grants, including the Athens Federal Foundation and United Way.
- iii. E.G. Fisher Friends of the Library – Friends of the Library President Bo Perkinson discussed the recent Noon Book Club meetings and noted their high attendance, with one program drawing 27 people. He also had a written report.
- iv. Englewood – Board member Jan Dingess reported the library had 112 patrons in September with 91 computer users and 104 patrons in October with 100 computer users. She previewed the upcoming Reading Fun Day Program scheduled for December 22.
- v. Etowah – Board member Kay Harper reported that the library served over 100 lunches on Fall Break. She announced that “Unearth A Dream” would be the theme for Summer Reading in 2026. She discussed grants from the Athens Federal Foundation, America 250, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York.
- vi. Regional Library – Regional Director Liz Schreck discussed Generational Fluency training for library staff members. She previewed an upcoming roundtable on Google products. She reported on grant opportunities for the Story Book Trails from the Early Literacy Foundation as well as America 250 grants. She discussed the recent Trustee Workshop in Crossville and reported that MCLB members Ashley Smith and Dwight Jordan attended. She also reported on READS statistics and the Standards Analysis Reports for the four county libraries.

VI. Old Business

- i. MCLB Book Order/Disposition Reports - Chairman Forrest reported that they are available.
- ii. MCLB FY26 Capital Budget Request Update – Chairman Forrest and Fisher Library Director Becky Coleman reported that they are making preparations to request an increase in the County Commission’s budget for capital improvements for the library, with plans to purchase more security cameras and upgrade the fire system.
- iii. EGFPL Fundraising Update – Fisher Library Director Becky Coleman presented a draft fundraising flyer. Several discussed it, and Chairman Forrest said to “put an ask in it” and make it one page long.

VII. New Business

- i. MCLB Collection Review – Fisher Library Director Becky Coleman reported that the library received a letter from the state ordering them to “double check” the Juvenile Collection to ensure compliance with Tennessee Code Annotated and recent Executive Orders pertaining to books on gender topics purchased with state or federal funds. She distributed a template she designed with information on juvenile books. Several discussed this. Chairman Forrest asked if the chairman or the entire board will need to act on the review. Tim Womac and Jan Dingess said they had already discussed this with their respective library directors in Etowah and Englewood. It was noted that there had been no recent parent complaints or challenges to children’s books.
- ii. CALHOUN Director Hire – Lynette Rodgers – Chairman Forrest introduced Lynette Rogers, the applicant for the position. Rodgers introduced herself and discussed her background and why she was the right person for the position. Chairman Forrest asked her a few questions. Rodgers left the room as everyone briefly discussed. Secretary Tyler Boyd made a motion to hire Rodgers. Board member Ashley Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Rodgers was invited back into the room and informed she had been hired as the new director of the Calhoun Library.
- iii. EGFPL FY26 Auditor Selection – Chairman Forrest said that Johnson, Murphey and Wright had “exceeded expectations” in the recent audits for the Fisher Library and recommended no bid process. The quote from JM&W was \$14,500. Treasurer Tim Womac spoke in favor of retaining their services and said “If it isn’t broke, don’t fix it.” Vice Chairman Mickey Blevins made the motion to select JM&W as the auditor for FY26. Board member Ashley Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- iv. EGFPL Food For Fines – Fisher Library Director Becky Coleman requested to continue to Food For Fines program for December 2025, as well as June, July, November, and December of 2026. Board member Ashley Smith made the motion to approve Coleman’s request. Board member Dwight Jordan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- v. Fisher Picture Display – Chairman Forrest reported that the library has been looking for a better photograph of Edward G. Fisher and Gussie Wilson Fisher than we currently have to display prominently in the library. Several discussed ongoing efforts to find a better photo.

Board member Jan Dingess asked Fisher Library Director Becky Coleman if the staff was up to date on CPR and First Aid Training. Coleman said that they were.

Chairman Forrest reminded the board members to complete their Trusteeship Training, and that the next board meeting will be on Monday January 26, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Chairman Forrest adjourned the meeting at 7:24 PM.