

McMinn County Library Board
1289 Ingleside Avenue
Athens, Tennessee 37303

Board Meeting MINUTES
MAY 26, 2026 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, Dwight Jordan, and Ashley Smith. 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 Richelle Brinkley discussed a recent training and requested feedback.
- III. Approval of Minutes - Secretary Tyler Boyd presented the Minutes from the March 23, 2026 meeting. Treasurer Tim Womac made the motion to accept the Minutes. Board member Jan Dingess seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Tim Womac compared income for March 2025 to March 2026, noting that the 4th qu. check from the County Commission arrived in March this year, a \$2,400 check from the Friends, and a Tech Grant reimbursement. He noted that expenditures for March 2025 and March 2026 were nearly identical. Comparing income for April 2025 to April 2026, he reported that the check from the Athens City Council 4th qu. Check came in along with \$10,000 for capital expenditures and \$21,000 for the new security and fire system installation. He noted that payroll expenditures saw a small increase in April 2026 compared to April 2025. He gave a breakdown of the expenditures for the new security and fire system, noting that the City of Athens gave \$19,400, the Friends gave just over \$7,000, and the MCLB executive committee voted to move funds from the Simmons Long-Term Investment Account to cover the remaining approx. \$18,000 in costs, with hopes that the County Commission will reimburse us at a later date.
- V. Library Reports
 - i. Calhoun – Treasurer Tim Womac shared sad news that library director Lynette Rogers' father recently passed away and sent condolences on behalf of the board. He reported that the library's Summer Reading Kickoff was scheduled for May 29 and that they would soon be hosting a class on how to use Libby.

- ii. E.G. Fisher – Fisher Library Director Becky Coleman reported on the recent installation of the Vector security system and fire suppression system and thanked the Friends for donating a check to help with these costs. Discussing capital projects, she is seeking quotes for ADA-compliant doors and that King Paving's quote for paving and striping the parking lot was \$11,000. She noted that the City of Athens budgeted the same amount for the library as the year before, along with \$19,400 for capital expenditures. She reported that the County Commission is considering our request to cover 1/3 of the cost of the security and fire suppression systems. She also previewed an upcoming potluck dinner at the Meadowlands Park in Calhoun for all four county libraries.
 - iii. E.G. Fisher Friends of the Library – Friends of the Library President Bo Perkinson distributed a copy of his report. He reported on recent and upcoming Noon Book discussions, including timely ones such as Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" led by Brett King. He previewed the Friends of the Library Used Book Sale set for June 18-21 at the McMinn County High School cafeteria. He reported on two financial contributions to the library: \$7,299.22 for a fire suppression system and \$1,692.92 for window treatments for the Community Room.
 - iv. Englewood – Board member Jan Dingess reported 184 library users in March and 133 in April and that July 6 would be the Fun Reading Day program with a theme of ice cream and dinosaurs.
 - v. Etowah – Board member Kay Harper reported on a \$20,000 ADA grant for repairs for the sidewalks around the library, two more grant applications, and recent donations from local artist Janet Hamm. She shared statistics for 2026 to date: 2,630 patrons, 4,901 items circulated, and 37 new lib. cards issued.
 - vi. Regional Library – Regional Director Liz Schreck discussed annual standard surveys for the libraries, previewed the State Library's upcoming Statehood Day celebrations for early June, reminded that 2026 Tech Grant reports are due May 30, noted that the 2027 Tech Grant applications are now open, discussed grants from the Association for Rural and Small Libraries, and discussed READS statistics and handouts.
- VI. Old Business
 - i. MCLB Book Order/Disposition Reports - Chairman Forrest reported that they are available.
 - ii. MCLB Nominating Committee – Vice Chairman Mickey Blevins reported that the Athens City Council recently appointed board member Jacob

Burnette for a full three-year term ending in June 2029, this coming after Burnette finished the term vacated by former board member John Duggan who resigned in November 2024.

Blevins presented the new slate of officers for the MCLB for 2026-2027: Tyler Boyd, Chairman; Mickey Blevins, Vice Chairman; Tim Womac, Treasurer; Ashley Smith, Secretary.

Board member Jan Dingess made a motion to elect the slate of officers presented by Blevins. Board member Kay Harper seconded. The slate was elected unanimously.

VII. New Business

- i. EGFPL FY27 Budget Approval – Fisher Library Director Becky Coleman discussed funding requests from the Athens City Council and the McMinn County Commission and forecasted the likelihood of no increase in funding from either body. Bri McKinney from Warren-Jackson also discussed the budget. Chairman Forrest asked about the audit, and McKinney noted that the audit expense is in the budget. The library's contributions to Director Coleman's retirement fund was discussed. Chairman Forrest asked about a city or county plan in the region with retirement plans for library directors that we could use as inspiration in developing ours, and mentioned Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS). McKinney and Regional Director Schreck also discussed.
- ii. EGFPL Adult Library Card Access Policy – Director Coleman proposed a change, to permit non-library card holders to use the PCs with a guest pass. This is in order to accommodate patrons who may be passing through the area or visiting or who do not have a library card for various reasons. Various discussed, including staff member Richelle Brinkley. Chairman Forrest asked to table this item to the July meeting.
- iii. EGFPL Room Reservation Form and Policy – Director Coleman discussed proposed changes, including provisions for sales on the library premises. Various discussed. Secretary Boyd recommended a provision to allow authors to sell books at the library if it is a library-sponsored event. Board member Dwight Jordan agreed businesses should not be able to sell in the library. Chairman Forrest asked to table this item to the July meeting.

Chairman Forrest reminded the board members to complete their Trusteeship Training, and that the next board meeting will be on Monday July 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Chairman Forrest adjourned the meeting at 7:07 PM.

