

MINUTES
AUGUST 27, 2025 – 2:00 PM
OCONTO COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD
COMMITTEE OF OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
GILLETT PUBLIC LIBRARY 200 E MAIN STREET GILLETT, WI 54124
www.co.oconto.wi.us
(Draft minutes, not yet approved)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Vicki Gooding, At Large Member; Emily Miller, Oconto Unified School District Superintendent; Debra Schroeder, Farnsworth Public Library; Dawn Byars, Gillett Public Library; Alan Sleeter, Oconto County Board of Supervisors Chair

COMMITTEE ABSENT: Judy Patenaude, Lena Public Library; Kathleen Marsh, Lakes Country Public Library

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Heath, County Administrator; Kathryn Essermann, Lakes Country Public Library Director; Rachel Pascoe, Oconto Falls Community Library; Joan Denis, Nicolet Federated Library System; Kristie Hauer, Nicolet Federated Library System; Kim Pytleski, Oconto County Clerk

TIME MEETING BEGAN: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Gooding.

1. Call to Order

2. Statement of County Mission and Vision

Richard Heath, County Administrator, read the mission and vision statement.

3. Approval of Agenda

3.1. Change of Sequence

3.2. Removal of Items

Motion by Miller/Sleeter to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was voted on and carried.

4. Approval of Minutes of the May 21, 2025 Meeting

Motion by Byars/Miller to approve the 02/26/2025 minutes as corrected. The motion was voted on and carried.

5. Communications – None.

6. County Administrator Report

Richard Heath, County Administrator, gave the County Administrator report. Discussion followed. One of the items discussed was the payment of the 2026 discovery guide ad (will be paid for out of the county subscriptions line item), and additional budget numbers for countywide programming efforts. There is currently no line item in the county budget for that purpose.

7. County Library Reports

- Kathryn Essermann, Director, presented the Lakes Country Public Library report. Placed on file and treated as information to the board.
- Rachel Pascoe, Director, presented the Oconto Falls Community Library report. Placed on file and treated as information to the board.
- Written reports were submitted by directors from the Gillett Public Library, Lena Public Library, and Suring Area Public Library. Placed on file and treated as information to the board.

8. Review of Library Services Plan

There are no proposed changes to the current library plan. Board discussed joint library structure, the innovation grant awarded to the City of Oconto Falls to explore library structure best practices, and the temporary closing of the Coleman library due to a fire.

9. Nicolet Federated Library System (NFLS) Report

Joan Denis, Nicolet Federated Library System, gave the NFLS report and introduced Kristie Hauer from the Nicolet Federated Library System. Discussion followed.

10. Library Planning Committee Update – None.

11. Future Agenda Items

- OPIOID remediation dollar awareness campaign.

12. Announcements/General Information (No action to be taken)

- Heath announced the OPIOID remediation dollars awareness campaign could be used in conjunction with libraries.
- Gooding announced resignation from the Board effective December 31, 2025. The board thanked her for her years of service!

13. Next Meeting Date/Location

The next meeting of the Library Services Board will be Wednesday, November 19th, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Gillett Community Center.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Schroeder/Sleeter to adjourn. The motion was voted on and carried at 2:43 p.m.

KP/Date Posted: 09/15/2025