

- The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at the PWRL St. Marys Headquarters Library.
- CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Alice Hinck called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m. Peggy Adams was Secretary. Others present were Board Members Bill Flannigan, Lela Riley and Alicia Matson, Judith Cremer, Director, Terry Force, Pottawatomie County Commissioner.
- PUBLIC COMMENT: None.
- APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Lela Riley moved that the Board approve the consent agenda, including the approval of minutes of the April 29, 2026 board meeting, correspondence and communication, report of the treasurer, approval of the April financial reports and payment of the May bills. Bill Flannigan seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- NCKL REP. REPORT: An NCKL Directors meeting was held Wednesday, May 27, in Manhattan. Judith was unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts.
- The NCKL annual meeting will be held on August 27, in Manhattan. The NCKL 2027 Budget and System Plan will be on the agenda.
- DIRECTORS REPORT: The Library is still working with our Gusto payroll processors to finalize the amount of adjustments made to correct the 2025 payroll.
- The Alma branch librarian has gotten three bids for a vinyl sign with the Library name to go on the front of the building. After discussion the Board agreed by consensus to approve the lowest bid from Thomas Signs in Manhattan.
- Judith updated the Board on the status of the building that collapsed adjacent to the PWRL Onaga Branch Library. The City of Onaga has put out a bid to remove the rubble. The deadline for this bid is June 15. No repairs can be made to neighboring buildings until this rubble is removed. The Library building is continuing to leak and we have two dehumidifiers running to keep up with the excess moisture.
- The new pocket garden at the PWRL St. Marys Headquarters Library has taken shape. The City of St. Marys brought equipment to turn the soil and they added a load of top soil to the area. Gregg Hochderffer from the St. Marys Garden Club volunteered time to assist with the project. He also donated a load of mulch for the garden. The City also brought seven large rocks that had previously been dug out of the hill to provide additional landscaping for the garden space.
- Judith told the Board that she has applied for a Jere Miller Trust Grant to support the landscaping efforts at the St. Marys Headquarters Library. Funding was requested to purchase a metal bench to match the existing outdoor furniture. Funding was also requested for the purchase of native plants for the garden, steel letters spelling PWRL for the front landscaping beds, and exterior lighting to illuminate the letters. A decision on the funding request should be made by the end of the month.

- The Library also applied for and received a Plant a Prairie Grant. Grant recipients will receive 32 native plants and some other garden kit materials. The plants will arrive during the first week of September.
- The City of St. Marys hired Perry Electric to install a new outlet in the supply room. This work was completed Tuesday, May 26. Perry Electric also agreed to prepare an estimate on the cost of outdoor landscape lighting. This expense will hopefully be covered by funding from the Jere Miller Grant.
- The Kansas State Library has released the 2026 Notable Book List. The list includes the book, the Magic of Light, written by Jordan Abitz, the PWRL Onaga Branch Library. All books on the 2026 Notable Book List have been purchased and are now available for patrons to borrow.
- Lori Beth Terrell, the Alma Branch Librarian, has announced her impending retirement. She will stay with the Library through the current Summer Reading / Summer Food Program. Her last day will be August 31, 2026.
- Emily Murphy, the St. Marys Branch Librarian, has given her two weeks notice. Her last day at the Library will be June 10, 2026. Judith said she would work with existing staff to shift responsibilities at St. Marys. The search to fill this position will begin as soon as the opening has been announced to current staff.
- UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
ST. MARYS - ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The St. Marys Advisory Committee met on Friday May 15, 2026. The monthly new book list, the 2025 Annual Report, and the St. Marys Summer Reading Program flyers were emailed to the St. Marys City Clerk to be given to the St. Marys City Commissioners.
- Judith gave the Advisory Committee an update on upcoming events planned at the Library.
- The next St. Marys Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 12.
- 2027 LIBRARY BUDGET: The 2027 Library Budget meeting with the Wabaunsee County Commission was held on Monday May 4 at Alma. Lela Riley attended to represent the board. The need for the continued support of a living wage and a health insurance stipend for library staff was stressed during presentation of the budget.
- The 2027 Budget meeting with the Pottawatomie County Commission was held on Monday, May 18. Board members Bill Flannigan and Alicia Matson attended to represent the Board. The importance of the continued support of the health insurance subsidy was again the focus of discussion.
- VEHICLE REPLACEMENT: The CD intended for replacement of PWRL's 2012 Dodge Grand Caravan was redeemed as discussed and the funds deposited, along with the \$500 budgeted for vehicle replacement in 2026, into the Bank of the Flint Hills checking account. The balance available is \$27,842.85.
- Judith reported that she has not had time to investigate vehicle purchase options but she will continue to research potential vehicles as time allows.

- **BOARD MEMBER POSITIONS:** Judith told the Board she is still working on locating someone to fill Position 1 from the Olsburg area on the PWRL Library Board of Trustees. The Board agreed by consensus that the search could be expanded to the Westmoreland Community if a suitable candidate cannot be found in Olsburg.

NEW BUSINESS

- **POLICY UPDATES:** Judith reported that she has not had time to work on policy updates. This project will have to wait until after the high activity generated by the Summer Reading / Summer Food Program has subsided and the current staffing shortages have been overcome.
- **UNEARTHING A STORY @ THE LIBRARY SUMMER READING / SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM:** Considerable time and energy has been invested to prepare for the 2027 Summer Reading / Summer Food Program. School visits have been conducted at all local schools. Flyers and calendars have been distributed, and will be posted on the Library website soon. Staff are planning to host many programs and speakers and they expect it to be a very busy at the Library this summer.
- **BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2026:** The regular June Library Board Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the PWRL St. Marys Headquarters Library on Wednesday, June 24, 2026.
- **ADJOURNMENT:** The Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Alice M. Hinck

Chairman

Daggy Adams

Secretary