Viking Library System
Governing Board Meeting
March 17, 2026

Chair Rebecca Stolee called the Governing Board Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Board members attending were Nini Battistini, Becky Beyer, Doris Crane (remote-schedule conflict), LeAnn Dean, Paul Gremmels (remote-schedule conflict), Sharon Hintgen, Hailey Kreft, Bob Lahman, Pat Lesmeister-Nelson, Jo Rudnitski, Rebecca Stolee, Jessica Steinbrenner (remote-schedule conflict), Dwight Walvatne and Jeff Way. Staff members attending were Erin Smith, Gail Nordstrom, Julia Johnson, and Jody Lehn. The meeting was held in the meeting room of the Viking Library System.

Agenda and Roll Call

Agenda item addition: 6.d 2026 VLS Support for Minnesota Library Association (MLA) Priorities and Bills.
Bob Lahman made a motion to approve the VLS Governing Board agenda with the addition as presented. Pat Lesmeister-Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Consent agenda items:

- Minutes for the January 21, 2026 Board meeting,
- Updated 2026 Board Meeting Dates with Inclement Weather fallback dates,
- Updated Board Bylaws with Inclement weather statement.

Pat Lesmeister-Nelson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Jo Rudnitski seconded. Motion carried.

Bills

Sharon Hintgen made a motion to approve the list of disbursements as presented.
Bob Lahman seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Dwight Walvatne made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Jo Rudnitski seconded. Motion carried.

Donation Acceptance

Background/Key Points:

VLS has received four memorial donations:

March 2, 2026—Memorial donation of $150.00 in memory of Florence Anderson
March 9, 2026—Memorial donation of $100.00 in memory of Alveda Rhude
March 12, 2026--$50.00 donation
March 13, 2026—Memorial donation of $500.00 in memory of Alveda Rhude
None of the donations were donor-specified. But as the memorial donations were in memory of Bookmobile users, our recommendation is that the funds be applied towards book collection purchases for the VLS Bookmobile (account code #5001).

Budgetary Impact:

Increase 2026 budgeted miscellaneous revenue by $800.00

Increase 2026 budgeted Bookmobile books (#5001) disbursement by $800.00
Originating Department: Administration and Finance

Jeff Way made a motion to accept the donations and apply the funds as presented. Nina Battistini seconded. Motion carried.

Director's Report
See written report in board packet.

Public Library Consultant Report
See written report in board packet.

Committee

Unfinished Business

New Business
2026 VLS Minnesota Public Library Annual Report
Bob Lahman made a motion to approve and submit the 2026 VLS Minnesota Public Library Annual Report as presented. Pat Lesmeister-Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution recognizing outgoing Board Member
Jeff Way moved to adopt the resolution in recognition and appreciation of the service provided by outgoing Board member Mary Jane Keith. Jo Rudnitski seconded. Motion carried.

Appointment of Hailey Kreft as a VLS Board Representative to the NLLN Governing Board
Subject: Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) Governing Board VLS Appointee
Recommendation: Appoint Board member Hailey Kreft to the NLLN Governing Board as a VLS representative.
Background/Key Points:
Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) is the multitype library system serving the VLS region. The NLLN Governing Board has two seats for VLS Board appointed members. VLS Board appointee Ruth Holmgren is currently serving. Board member Hailey Kreft is interested in and able to serve as the second VLS Board appointee to the NLLN Board.

LeAnn Dean made a motion to appoint VLS Board Member Hailey Kreft to the NLLN Governing Board as a VLS Representative. Sharon Hintgen seconded. Motion carried.

VLS Support for Minnesota Library Association Legislative (MLA) Priorities and Bills
Recommendation: Motion that the VLS Governing Board support the Minnesota Library Association's (MLA) legislative requests to:

- Seek legislative changes to ensure equitable terms and fair pricing for library eBooks through public contracts.
- Seek $10 million in state bonding support for Library Construction Grant funding. Allow flexibility in matching funds. Raise the individual grant cap to $2 million.

Background/Key Points:

SF #3685/HF #3698 Ebooks

Currently licensing terms from library ebook and eaudio book vendors are cost-prohibitive and limit accessibility. The legislative language in the proposed bills would:

- Assist in curbing high costs and repeated re-purchasing of titles
- Restore local control to libraries for managing and preserving their collections
- Ensure access to digital collections for library patrons

SF #3684/HF #4035 Library Construction Grant funding

More than 45 public libraries across Minnesota have identified a need for repairs, expansion, or new construction. In the VLS region, Douglas County Library is working on a new building project. Thorson Memorial Library (Elbow Lake) and Fergus Falls Public Library are past recipients of library construction grant funds.

Sharon Hintgen made a motion to approve the VLS Governing Board supporting the Minnesota Library Association's (MLA) legislative requests as presented. Bob Lahman seconded. Motion carried.

Policy Review and Member Education

Local Library Boards, NLLN Governing Board

Board members shared member library updates.

Jeff Way made a motion to adjourn. Sharon Hintgen seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Lehn, Office Coordinator