HEARTLAND LIBRARY COOPERATIVE

GOVERNING BOARD

Lake Placid Public Library – Meeting Room

1069 US Hwy. 27 N., Lake Placid, FL

Minutes to the May 20, 2026 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. Invocation led by Jeannie Palacios and pledge was led by Brad Goodbread.

ROLL CALL:

Jeannie Palacios Chair Hardee County; Commissioner Brad Goodbread Treasurer Okeechobee County; Ann Ryals Desoto County; Lauri Benson Desoto County; Garnett Ahern Glades County; Commissioner Kenny Miller Hardee County; Sue Rood Highlands County; Nancy Griest Okeechobee County; Vikki Brown Coordinator Heartland; Sonya Chapa Assistant Coordinator Heartland

Also Present: Linda Waters Librarian DeSoto County; Regina Ussery Librarian Hardee County; Kresta King Librarian Okeechobee County; Ann Burford Okeechobee County.

Absent: Commissioner Judy Schaefer Vice-Chair DeSoto County; Commissioner Hattie Taylor Glades County; Terri Moorehouse Glades County; Nicole Drake Hardee County; Commissioner Arlene Tuck Highlands County; Denise Whitehead Okeechobee County.

ROUTINE BUSINESS:

Notice of Public Meeting: Notice was properly given.

Additions to Agenda: Vikki Brown informed the Board that the bound copies of the audit have been provided by WicksBrownWilliams for the Board members.

Approval of the Agenda: Brad Goodbread moved to accept the agenda with changes, seconded by Lauri Benson; unanimously passed.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: Brad Goodbread moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Lauri Benson; unanimously passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION:

i. **None**

CONSENT AGENDA:

Lauri Benson moved to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Garnett Ahern; unanimously passed.

I. **Approval of new vehicle purchase**

A. Previous vehicle choice (Nissan Rogue) was out of stock.
B. New vehicle is 2026 Chevy Trailblazer.
1. Expected delivery is end of May to July 2026.
2. Cost is $1,142.63 less than the Rogue with a sooner delivery date.
3. Vehicle is already reserved pending Board approval.

II. Budget Amendment 26-02

ACTION AGENDA:

I. Discussion – Meeting Dates for FY27
A. Proposed Dates
1. November 18, 2026
2. February 10, 2027
3. May 19, 2027
4. August 18, 2027

Vikki Brown informed the Governing Board that the upcoming dates for FY27 were up for discussion to ensure that the meeting times and dates worked for the majority of Board members; Vikki mentioned that there is usually a date conflict for February due to County deadlines and festivities, and made a suggestion to move the dates to February 3rd or 10th. Commissioner Goodbread and Jeannie Palacios both acknowledged a meeting conflict for February 10th. Ann Ryals suggested that all Board members check their calendars for the listed dates and bring any conflict details to the August meeting of the Heartland Governing Board. Vikki stated that she will also bring alternative dates to approve in the August meeting. The discussion will be tabled to the August meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

II. Library Statistics

Vikki Brown provided the Board with updated Library statistics. Vikki Brown informed the Board that some of the Library statistics may appear higher or lower, however totals will not be available until the end of the year. Vikki also stated that she has seen a difference in patron attendance this year with less visits from Northern visitors and even among regulars this year.

III. Audit Booklet
A. Note: Accepted at the February meeting.

Vikki Brown provided the bound booklets of the official audit to the Board for their perusal. Jeannie Palacios reminded the Board that this audit was accepted by the Board in the February meeting.

IV. Member Updates

Brad Goodbread informed the Board that Denise Whitehead has taken a position as the new Okeechobee City manager and will no longer be with Okeechobee County. Brad commended Denise on the incredible work she has done for Okeechobee and said the County will be sad to see her go. Brad informed the